

Franklin Agricultural Commission

Meeting Minutes from May 10, 2018

Municipal Building 355 East Central Street

In Attendance: *Carly Fisher, Tim Garboski, Nick Hoffmann, Linda Noel, Jeff Perry, Marian Szymanski, and Roger Trahan*

1. Opening:

- A.** Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm by Chairman Carly Fisher.
- B.** Roll Call: All members present.

2. Old Business:

- A.** Charles River Farm: Carly Fisher and Linda Noel reported on their meeting with the Town Administrators concerning the situation involving the Town of Franklin's Agent for the Conservation Commission and The Charles River Farm. Members of the Agricultural Commission who visited the site described what they saw to the rest of the group. Members of the Agricultural Commission have also read a Project Narrative prepared by Guerriere & Halnon, Inc. and the "Farming in Wetland Resource Areas – A Guide to Agriculture and The MA Wetlands Protection Act" and the information in these materials was also discussed.

The Franklin Agricultural Commission voted unanimously to take the following steps to support The Charles River Farm : The Franklin Agricultural Commission will write an e-mail to the Franklin Conservation Commission suggesting that the two Commissions meet before the Public Hearing on 5/31/2018 to discuss the situation; The Franklin Agricultural Commission will be present at the Public Hearing; and The Franklin Agricultural Commission will provide education to the Conservation Commission and its Agent concerning agricultural laws and agricultural exceptions

3. New Business:

- A.** Linda Noel reported back to the Commission about the 5/9/2018 Economic Subcommittee Meeting and their Agenda item of a proposed change to the existing zoning laws on the ownership of chickens in Franklin, MA. Linda reported that the Subcommittee ran out of time to discuss the subject of the proposed changes. Members of the Subcommittee did meet later with those who had come to speak on behalf of changing the existing zoning laws. The Subcommittee will meet again in June 2018 and said that the issue will be at the top of their Agenda. The Franklin Agricultural Commission will invite the proponents of the changes to the zoning laws to attend their next meeting on 5/21/2018 to discuss how the Commission can be of help.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned by Jeff Perry and Linda Noel at 9:02pm

Minutes submitted by: Marian Szymanski