**Franklin Agricultural Commission**

**Meeting Minutes from July 12, 2021**

**Virtual Meeting using Google Meets**

**In Attendance:** Members Present**:** *Roger Trahan, Nick Capoccia, CJ Koshivas, Marian Szymanski, Linda Noel. Also present: Mel Hamblin*

1. **Opening:**

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:53pm pm by Roger Trahan
2. Roll Call: Five members of the Franklin Agricultural Commission were present.
3. Approval of the Minutes: The Minutes from the 4/26/21 were approved.
4. Linda Noel nominates Roger Trahan to run tonight’s meeting. Motion is seconded by Marian Szymanski. Roll-call vote is unanimous.

**2. New Business:**

A. 2021 Election Of Officers

Chairman – Roger Trahan

Vice- Chairman – CJ Koshivas

Clerk – Marian Szymanski

*All of the Officers were nominated, seconded, and elected by unanimous roll-call votes*.

B. Zucchini Races at the Franklin Farmer’s Markets. Roger Trahan will select the best date for this event. The Agricultural Commission will work with Mel Hamblin, the Franklin Town Library and the Franklin Recreation Department to promote, publicize, and make this event a success. The Commission also discussed the possibility of holding a pumpkin decorating contest at the Franklin Harvest Festival this October.

C. Pollinator Pastures- Our Pollinator Pasture near Dacey’s Field is over-grown with undesirable plants. The AgCom has decided that the best way to remedy this situation is to hand pull all of the ragweed, dock, and mugwort plants and replant the spaces with pollinator-friendly plants and seeds. Marian Szymanski and Linda Noel will form a sub-committee to organize a town-wide event to revitalize the pasture.

D. Franklin Open Space- The Commission discussed several properties in Franklin that could potentially be purchased by the Town to become Open Space.

E. Future Meeting Format – The Commission’s Chairman, Roger Trahan, explained that going forward, we will stay on-topic during our meetings. We will discuss only the items on our Agenda and we will follow Robert’s Rules. We will begin meeting in person at our next meeting, on 7-26-2021, but we will continue to offer the Zoom option for those not comfortable meeting in-person. Roger will arrange for us to use a room at the Municipal Building.

F. Municipal Agricultural Commissions – The Franklin Agricultural Commission discussed the possibility of becoming a Municipal AgCom. No decision was made as to whether or not we will pursue this change.

**3. Old Business:**

**A.** 61 Properties – The Agricultural Commission will revisit our outreach to 61 property owners at our next meeting.

B. Connections with Local Agricultural Commissions- Roger has suggested that we begin to resume our meeting with other AgCommissions in the area to discuss what and how they are accomplishing their goals.

C. Agricultural Commission’s Website- Nick Capoccia suggested that we publicize more information about our group and our LOEs on our website.

**Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned by Linda N. and CJ K. at 8:00 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Marian Szymanski