**Franklin Agricultural Commission**

**Meeting Minutes from July 25, 2022**

**(Hybrid Meeting)**

**In Attendance:** Members Present**:** *Roger Trahan, CJ Koshivas, Linda Noel, and Marian Szymanski. Also present: Breeka Li Goodlander, Mel Hamblin, and Jeff Livingstone.*

1. **Opening:**

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:02pm pm by Roger Trahan.
2. Roll Call: Four members of the Franklin Agricultural Commission were present.
3. Approval of the Minutes: The Minutes from the 4/25/22 were approved.

2. Presentation by Breeka Li Goodlander CWS, Conservation Agent Breeka is the Conservation Agent for the town of Franklin. She spoke to the Commission about the importance of the Conservation Commission and the Agricultural Commission working together on common goals. She also discussed the Wetland protection Act and how it pertains to Agriculture. Breeka explained that there are two exceptions for agricultural land in use within the WPA: 1.The Maintenance of drainage and flooding systems of cranberry bogs; and 2. Work performed for normal maintenance or improvement of land in agricultural use or in aquaculture use. Land that is under Chapter 61, 61A, or 61B, and land that is protected by the “Right to Farm” Act is still subject to the rules and requirements of the WETLAND Protection Act.

3. Old Business:

A. Chapter 61 mailing: Mel Hamblin has created a mailing list has assembled the packets of information on Chapter 61. The informational packets are ready to be mailed. Every member of the AgCom will receive a sample of the mailing.

**4. New Business:**

A. Roger informed the Commission that we need to submit a list of the Commission’s accomplishments for 2021-2022, to the Town of Franklin.

B. Roger has requested that all members of the Agricultural Commission begin to research what a future Franklin “Community Garden” might look like?

C. Roger suggested that the Agricultural Commission and the Conservation Commission work together to create an educational exhibit or “walk” to educate the residents of Franklin on the importance of wetlands.

The meeting was adjourned by CJ Koshivas and Roger Trahan at 8:04pm.

Minutes submitted by Marian Szymanski