**Franklin Agricultural Commission**

**Meeting Minutes from November 29, 2021**

**Municipal Building 355 East Central Street**

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

1. **Opening:**

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:12pm 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 10/25/21 were approved.

**2. Old Business:**

A. Fiscal Information- The Franklin Agricultural Commission has a small amount of money to cover our yearly costs. In 2022, our costs will include: printing pamphlets, brochures, and Chapter 61 information, pots, soil, and seeds for pumpkins and squash, and stamps and envelopes.

B. Community Farm/Community Gardens- The Franklin Agricultural Commission recognizes that, eventually, the town of Franklin will have land available for agricultural use and the Commission should begin to make plans for the best way we can utilize such property. We discussed the possibilities of creating a Franklin community farm, establishing an agricultural education center, creating more and larger community gardens, and developing and implementing a managed forest plan for wooded agricultural land. Actively managing a forest can improve the health and safety of the forest as well as creating healthier habitats for a variety of wildlife. As part of the forest management, harvested timber could be sold to bring money back to the Town. Creating and demonstrating an actively managed, healthy woodland would also be a wonderful way to teach Franklin residents how to care for their own wooded properties.

**3. Old Business:**

A. Town Grant for 61 Outreach- The Commission is interested in the possibility of applying for and obtaining a grant to pay for the costs of our 2022 outreach to potential 61 property owners. We will be looking into working with a group who is seeking projects that will prevent loss of canopy in Massachusetts towns.

The meeting was adjourned by Linda N. and Marian S. at 8:30pm.

Minutes submitted by: Marian Szymanski