**Franklin Agricultural Commission**

**Meeting Minutes from August 30 2021**

**Municipal Building 355 East Central Street**

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

1. **Opening:**

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:10pm 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 7/26/21 were approved.

A. Chapter 61- Roger has been in contact with Jeff P. and we will be receiving Jeff’s letter from 2020. We may need to modify the letter to bring the information up to date. Linda will contact Jamie H. for the 2022 tax rate and she will contact the Town Assessor’s office to get the list of eligible property owners. The Commission voted to send the letter out in January 2022 and a reminder to file in August or September of 2022.

B. Municipal Agricultural Commission- After much discussion and consideration, The Franklin Agricultural Commission has decided not to pursue becoming a Municipal Agricultural Commission at this time.

C. Zucchini Race- The annual Agricultural Commission’s “Zucchini race” will be held at the Franklin Farmer’s Market on September 10th. The Commission will have an information booth at this event. Mel Hamblin will run this event. Mel has created collages of photos from past zucchini races and has posted them to our website. The event is being promoted by Steve Sherlock, Alan Earls, and the Franklin Cultural Council. Franklin CableTV will cover the event. Roger, Mel and Nick C. will meet later this week to make sure that the race ramp and track are ready to go!

D. Pollinator Pasture- Mel explained to the Commission that the experiment that Brutus and Carlos (DPW) did on the Pollinator Pasture has failed. Marian will present several plans at the next meeting and the Commission will chose the plan that they feel will best revitalize and beautify our Pasture.

E. Franklin 2021 Harvest Festivle– The Franklin Agricultural Commission discussed plans for our booth at the annual Harvest Festival held in downtown Franklin. Besides our informational signs and hand-outs, we will also purchase pumpkins for children to decorate at our booth.

F. The Franklin Agricultural Commission’s Suggestion Box- Linda reviewed all of the comments that Franklin residents have placed in the suggestion box on display at various events. Suggestions for bike trails and a community farm on Open Land were mentioned. The Franklin Agricultural Commission will discuss these possibilities once final decisions have been made on potential land acquisitions by the Town.

The meeting was adjourned by Linda Noel and Nick Capoccia at 8:32pm.

Minutes submitted by: Marian Szymanski