

Franklin Agricultural Commission
Regional Agricultural Commission
Meeting Minutes from June 24, 2019
Franklin Public Library 118 Main Street

In Attendance: Members Present: *Carly Fisher, Jeff Perry, Roger Trahan, Linda Noel, & Marian Szymanski. Mel Hamblin, Ed Szymanski, and members of the Medway and Holliston Agricultural Commissions were present as well.*

1. Opening:

- A. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:03pm by Chairman Carly Fisher.
- B. Roll Call: Five members of the Franklin Agricultural Commission were present.

2. New Business:

- A. Introductions- Introductions were made.
- B. Agricultural Needs In Our Communities -
- C. Events and Education In Our Communities- A discussion was held about ways to make agricultural commissions more visible. Suggestions included: using social media, "eat local" campaigns, weekly photos and blogs, monthly newsletters, pollinator garden promotion, school gardens, and giving away plants and caterpillars at public events. We also discussed the importance of holding "Farm Days" on both a large and a small scale. A suggestion was made that "Regional farm days" be created. These events would include food and entertainment.
- D. Issues for MAAC – Concerns about drones flying over farms and filming farm activities was discussed as were problems facing Agricultural Commissions from groups such as PETA.
- E. Mapping Of 61 land and Open Space- Carly explained our recent mailing to all 61 property owners. Both Medway and Holliston have Open Space Boards. Both towns have CPA, Franklin does not.
- F. Regional Promotion Of Farms- Area farms can be listed on SEMAP's website, the State's website, and on the Mass Grown website. We discussed the possibility of creating a regional brochure.

- G. Next Regional AgCom Meeting- Our next regional meeting will be held on October 23, at the Thayer Homestead on Oak Street.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 8:03pm

Minutes submitted by: Marian Szymanski