

**Franklin Agricultural Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes from October 26, 2020**  
**Virtual Meeting using Google Meets**

**In Attendance:** Members Present: *Carly Fisher, Roger Trahan, & Marian Szymanski, CJ Koshivas, Jeff Perry, and Linda Noel. Mel Hamblin and Gregg Surdi were also in attendance.*

**1. Opening:**

- A. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:08pm by Chairman Carly Fisher.
- B. Roll Call: Six members of the Franklin Agricultural Commission were present.
- C. Approval of the Minutes: The Minutes from the 9/27/20 were approved.
- D. Carly Fisher read and explained the Town of Franklin's Virtual Rules.

**2. New Business:**

- A. Gregg Surdi, a resident of Franklin, came to this meeting to discuss a problem he was experiencing. Gregg cleared an over-grown pasture on his property with the intention of creating an orchard and a meadow. He received a letter from the Conservation Commission informing him that he had disturbed a wetland and that he needed to restore the land to its former condition. Gregg would still like to see this area of his property used as agricultural land, and asked the Agricultural Commission for advice.  
Gregg was advised to contact the FSA to file a "Farm Plan" for his property which should solve this problem.
- B. Community Education - The Commission discussed using Zoom to offer a series of Webinars to the residents of Franklin. The Webinars would address the public's current interest in gardening, raising chickens and mini goats, and preserving food. Mel suggested that we do this with our local cable TV company. Members of the Agricultural Commission will come up with possible webinar topics and will send them to Marian Szymanski.
- C. Winter Farmers Market – CJ will run a Fall/Winter Farmers Market at his Farm again this year. He will do so in 2 large, open-ended greenhouses. The Agricultural Commission will have a table at this market with a Sign and an assortment of pamphlets.

### **3. Old Business:**

A. Pollinator Pastures – The Pollinator Pasture at Dacey Field has been mowed. In March we will visit the Pasture to assess the plants that are currently growing and to determine which plants need to be removed, which plants should remain, and what plants should be added.

B. 61 Properties – The Agricultural Commission will revisit our outreach to 61 property owners and will upgrade the mailings that will be sent to these residents.

**Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned by Marian Szymanski and Linda Noel at 8:41pm

Minutes submitted by: Marian Szymanski