

## **Franklin Agricultural Commission**

### **Meeting Minutes from June 25, 2018**

#### **Municipal Building 355 East Central Street**

**In Attendance:** *Carly Fisher, Nick Hoffmann, Linda Noel, Marian Szymanski, and Roger Trahan*

#### **1. Opening:**

- A.** Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:07pm by Chairman Carly Fisher.
- B.** Roll Call: five members present. Guests present: Jennifer Nicholls – Volunteer.
- C.** Approval of the Minutes: Linda Noel made the motion to approve the minutes from the 5/21/2018 Franklin Agricultural Commission Meetings. Roger Trahan seconded the motion. The Minutes were unanimously approved.

#### **2. Old Business:**

- A.** Charles River Farm: The Franklin Conservation Commission held a meeting on 5/31/2018 to discuss the situation concerning the drainage pipe issue at Charles River Farm. Members of the Franklin Agricultural Commission were present at this Public Hearing. The Franklin Agricultural Commission provided a letter to all of the members of the Conservation Commission, prior to the Meeting, explaining that the drainage pipe in question is NICS approved and that its purpose is to maintain a tile-drained agricultural field. The Conservation Commission voted to approve the RDA and to allow the current conditions surrounding the pipe to remain, “as is”. A letter, written by George Russell, Town of Franklin Agricultural Agent, to Andy Dellea stating the above decision, was read at tonight’s meeting.
- B.** Update from Jennifer Nicholls – Eat Local program- 55 local residents took part in the survey. The results show that people in the community are interested in learning more agricultural issues and locally sourced food. Jennifer will be touring local farms and reporting on them in her newsletter.
- C.** Re-cap of Strawberry Stroll 6/8/2018: Members of the Agricultural Commission who participated in the event reported that the event was successful. Commission members handed out many brochures and introduced the Agricultural Commission to many members of the community. Suggestions were made to find healthier treats for the children and to purchase a banner for future community out-reach events.
- D.** Update on Chicken By-laws – EDC Meeting- A proposal to change the existing town By-Laws regarding keeping poultry was sent to the Town Council who voted to send it to the Planning Committee for approval. The Planning Committee will meet on 7.23.2018.

- E. Meeting with Franklin BOH: The Commission discussed the possibility of inviting the members of the Franklin BOH to attend a “AgCom boot camp” with members of the Franklin Agricultural Commission to help establish a positive relationship with the BOH and to possibly further educate the BOH on agricultural matters.

**3. New Business:**

- A. Charles River Farm- The owner of Charles River Farm, Andy Dellea, is asking the Agricultural Commission for advice as to how he should proceed with his intention to now drain his field directly into the river- by-passing his neighbor’s pond which is currently sourced by his drainage water. Discussion took place on this request and the Commission suggests that Andy Dellea contact George Russell, the Town of Franklin’s Conservation Agent, to ask for his advice in this matter.

**Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned by Roger Trahan and Linda Noel at 8:39pm

Minutes submitted by: Marian Szymanski