

**Franklin Agricultural Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes from April 26, 2021**  
**Virtual Meeting using Google Meets**

**In Attendance:** Members Present: *Carly Fisher, Roger Trahan, Marian Szymanski, Jeff Perry, and Linda Noel.* Also present: *Mel Hamblin and Cori Frongillo*

**1. Opening:**

- A. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:11 pm by Chairman Carly Fisher.
- B. Roll Call: Five members of the Franklin Agricultural Commission were present.
- C. Approval of the Minutes: The Minutes from the 3/29/21 were approved.
- D. Carly Fisher read and explained the Town of Franklin's Virtual Rules.

**2. New Business:**

A. AgCom Webinars – Mel Hamblin is plans to create webinars that feature the Franklin Girl Scouts planting seeds and seedlings.

B. Franklin Farmer's Market– Roger Trahan and his daughter will be running the Franklin Framer's Market this summer. They are awaiting decisions by the CDC, The State of Massachusetts, and the Town of Franklin regarding guidelines for face masks, the handling of produce, and all other safety precautions that will be required.

C. Pollinator Pastures- Our Pollinator Pasture near Dacey's Field is over-grown with undesirable plants. The site was toured and those who examined the Pollinator Pasture suggest that we hand pull all of the ragweed and mugwort plants and replant them with pollinator-friendly plants and seeds. Other weedy areas could be covered with cardboard and a thick mulch to smother the existing weeds and to create fertile soil for future pollinator plants.

**3. Old Business:**

A. 61 Properties – The Agricultural Commission will revisit our outreach to 61 property owners and will show the property owners the specific amount of money they would save by putting their homes in Chapter 61.

B. Open Space- 50 acres of land may become available for purchase by the Town of Franklin to be designated as Open Space. Some of this land could possibly be used to create an

Agricultural Education Center to help Franklin adults and youth understand the importance of preserving agricultural land.

**Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned by Jeff Perry and Linda Noel at 8:27 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Marian Szymanski