

Franklin Agricultural Commission

Meeting Minutes from May 21, 2018

Municipal Building 355 East Central Street

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

1. Opening:

- A.** Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Chairman Carly Fisher.
- B.** Roll Call: All members present. Guests present: Liz Smith – MA Farm Bureau, Jennifer Nicholls – Volunteer, and Jeff Eglantine – Chicken By-Laws in Franklin.
- C.** Approval of the Minutes: Jeff Perry made the motion to approve the minutes from the 5/2/2018 and 5/10/2018 Franklin Agricultural Commission Meetings. Linda Noel seconded the motion. The Minutes were unanimously approved.

2. Old Business:

- A.** Charles River Farm: The Franklin Conservation Commission will meet on 5/31/2018 to discuss the situation concerning the drainage pipe issue at Charles River Farm. Members of the Franklin Agricultural Commission will be present at this Public Hearing. The Franklin Agricultural Commission will provide 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. Jeff Perry will draft this letter for the Commission.
- B.** Strawberry Stroll 6/8/2018: Final plans were made for the Franklin Agricultural Commission's table at the event. Kate Sjoberg will have 75 brochures ready for display at our table for the event. Marian will ask the organizers of the event if our table can be located in front of the Rockland Trust building.
- C.** Regional Agricultural Commission Meeting: Marian read the notes she took at the Meeting with members of the Holliston, Medway, Sherborn, and Franklin Agricultural Commissions. This regional group will meet again in the Summer.
- D.** Meeting with Franklin BOH: The Commission will discuss 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. Presentation by Liz Smith (MFBF – BOD) Liz described how the farm Bureau assists farmers and gives them a voice in legislative issues.
- B. Presentation: by Jennifer Nicholls. Jennifer would like to volunteer to promote the Franklin Agricultural Commission and the importance of eating locally by posting interviews with farmers and local food related information in a weekly newsletter on our Facebook page and on our website.
- C. Franklin Chicken-Keeping Bylaws: Jeff Eglantine discussed with the group his suggestions for making changes to the current zoning laws in Franklin. A hearing will be held on this matter on 6/6/2018. Members of the Franklin Agricultural Commission attend this hearing and support the proposed changes which will make it possible for many Franklin residents to own chickens legally.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned by Jeff Perry and Linda Noel at 9:14pm

Minutes submitted by: Marian Szymanski