**Franklin Agricultural Commission**

 **Meeting Minutes from January 10, 2022**

 **(Meeting held Virtually Due to Covid-19 Spike)**

 **In Attendance:** Members Present**:** *Roger Trahan, CJ Koshivas, Marian Szymanski, Linda Noel and Nick Capoccia. Also present – Alan Earls and Mel Hamblin.*

 1. **Opening:**

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:03pm pm by Roger Trahan.
2. Roll Call: Five members of the Franklin Agricultural Commission were present.
3. Approval of the Minutes: The Minutes from the 11/29/21 were approved.

 **2. Old Business:**

 A. Chapter 61 Properties- The Franklin Agricultural Commission is continuing its work on creating an informational packet about Chapter 61 options for Franklin residents who own 5 or more acres of land. We believe that putting land into Chapter 61 is good for property owners, wildlife, the soil, and the community. We are still waiting for the Town to provide us with some necessary information before we can proceed with sending our packets to property owners.

 B. Community Farm/Community Gardens- The Franklin Agricultural Commission is preparing for the time when the town has land available for agricultural use. The Commission discussed a variety of ways we could made best use of such land. An exciting possibility would be to create an Education Center with demonstration gardens. This option would help to connect home owners to the existing farms in the town and to the land. CJ noted that many of his customers have an interest in taking classes on his farm about a wide range of agricultural topics.

 C. Agricultural Workshops- The Commission will be working with the local cable T.V. company to produce a series of televised workshops on an assortment of agricultural topics such as tree pruning, hemp production, seed starting, pollinator gardens, and growing squash and pumpkins. Mel Hamblin informed the Commission that many Franklin residents are also interested in learning more about growing vegetables and raising chickens. The workshops will begin in February.

 **3. New Business:**

 A. 2022 Goals- Rodger Trahan has asked every member of the Franklin Agricultural Commission to be ready to generate a list of goals for 2022. We will discuss these goals and finalize a plan at our next meeting on January 31, 2022.

 The meeting was adjourned by Linda N. and Marian S. at 7:42pm.

 Minutes submitted by: Marian Szymanski