**Franklin Agricultural Commission**

**Meeting Minutes from February 13, 2023**

**(Hybrid Meeting)**

**In Attendance:** Members Present**:** *Roger Trahan, Marian Szymanski, Nick Capoccia, Dan Morse, CJ Koshivas, and Linda Noel. Also present: Mel Hamblen and Ed Szymanski*

1. **Opening:**

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm pm by Roger Trahan.
2. Roll Call: Six members of the Franklin Agricultural Commission were present.

2. **New Business:**

A. AgCom Mission Satement – The Agricultural Commission revisited our Mission Statement and asked how our Committee can be more visible and how we can better fulfill our Mission. We acknowledge that we have worked towards this Mission with our informational booths and our children’s activities at the Summer and Winter Farmer’s Markets, Strawberry Strolls, Harvest Festivals, DelCarte Day, and with our 61A enrollment drive.

B. AgCom Outreach – Suggestions were made to reach-out to Franklin farmers and to ask them what the Agricultural Commission can do help promote and assist them, and to become involved, in a substantial way, in the Open Space discussion and outcome in the town of Franklin.

C. Open Space in Franklin – The town of Franklin has purchased over 200 acres in the last few years. Now he leaders of the town must decide how to use, manage, plan for, and care for these properties. Some suggestions from the Commission include: a cross-country course, incubator farms, walking paths with trees & shrubs planted for birds and pollinators, flower gardens for pollinators, a farm museum, a community garden, farming, and outdoor classrooms for adults and children. These suggestions will be presented at the Open Space and Rec. Plan meetings on 2/23/23 (Schmidt Farm), 3/9/23 (Riverbend Conservation Area), and 3/23/23 (Maple Hill).

**3. Old Business:**

A. AgCom Workshops- After learning that several Franklin farms will be offering agricultural classes and workshops at their farms this year, the Agricultural Commission has decided to focus our efforts on promoting these ventures rather than compete with them by offering our own, free, classes.

B. Joint Agricultural Commission Meeting – The Franklin AgCom is very interested in meeting with other AgComs in the area. Roger T. will contact several other groups and arrange such a meeting.

The meeting was adjourned by Linda Noel and Marian Szymanski at 8:02pm.

Minutes submitted by Marian Szymanski `1