**Franklin Agricultural Commission**

**Meeting Minutes from July 26 2021**

**Municipal Building 355 East Central Street**

**In Attendance:** Members Present**:** *Roger Trahan, Nick Capoccia, CJ Koshivas, Marian Szymanski, and Linda Noel.*

1. **Opening:**

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:06pm 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 7/12/21 were approved.

**2. New Business:**

A. Annual Farmer’s Market Week - The “Annual Farmer’s Market Week “will occur from August 1st through August 7th. The Agricultural Commission will celebrate this at the August 6th Franklin farmer’s Market with an Agricultural Commission Information booth full of pamphlets and brochures and a display of an 1968 working tractor for photo opportunities and exploration.

B. Chapter 61 properties- The Agricultural Commission decided to contact the Town of Franklin and the Town Assessor’s Office for the necessary information about properties which are eligible to come under Chapter 61. We will write to the owners of these properties and include a graph/chart to illustrate the potential savings to be gained. Roger will contact Jeff Perry for a copy of the letter he re-worded for the Commission last year.

C. Zucchini Race- The annual Agricultural Commission’s “Zucchini race” will be held at the Franklin Farmer’s Market on either September 10th or September 24th. The Agricultural Commission decided to use the same protocol, time frame, rules, and materials from the 2019 Zucchini Race. The Commission will have an information booth at this event. Mel Hamblin will run this event.

D. Pollinator Pasture- Originally, the Commission planned on weeding our current Pollinator Pasture by hand, in order to retain the Pollinator plants already growing, but several farmers on the Commission have suggested that it may be more practical to plow/till the entire pasture and sow new pollinator/wildflower flowers. Marian will investigate possible volunteers to help with this project, should we ultimately choose to pull the weeds by hand.

E. Municipal Agricultural Commissions – The Franklin Agricultural Commission discussed the possibility of becoming a Municipal AgCom and we weighed the pros and cons of pursuing becoming a “Municipal Agricultural Commission”. We will reach out to Laura Z., local AgComs, and the Franklin Board of Health.

F. Future meetings- The remaining 2021 Agricultural Commission meetings will be held on: 8/30/21, 9/27/21, 10/25/21, and11/29,21. The 2022 meetings will be held on 1/31/22, 2/28/22, 3/28,22, 4/25/22, 5/23/22, 6/27/22, and 7/25/22.

The meeting was adjourned by Linda Noel and C.J. Koshivas at 8:15pm.

Minutes submitted by: Marian Szymanski