

Town of Brookfield, MA
Agricultural Commission
Minutes of Meeting
May 18, 2011

Meeting called to order at 6:30PM by Clarence Snyder

Commission Appointee's present:

Paul Benjamin (term expires 6/30/2012)
James Dolan & Ron Starcher (terms expire 6/30/2013)
Barbara Haberlin & Clarence Snyder (terms expire 6/30/2014)

Alternate members present:

Ken Cleveland
Donald Grimes
Donald Haberlin
Steve Novak

Not present: Mark Ledoux

Others present: Kathy Pikosky, Carl Gustafson, Gary & Rhonda Collette, Daniel Kennedy.

Introductions were made. Mike Seery handed out Certificates of Receipt of Open Meeting Law Materials along with a pamphlet of Changes to the Open Meeting Law to Appointees present for review. Certificates will be signed by the Commission Members. The actual Open Meeting Law is available on the Attorney General's website for review and assistance.

Minutes of the April 13, 2011 meeting were read by Clarence "in summary". There was a motion and a second to accept the minutes as previously emailed/mailed and summarized. Clarence is to email the minutes to Mike Seery.

On May 17, 2011, Brookfield Selectmen, due to concerns over usurping the Zoning Board, decided to put off re-submitting the Right to Farm By-law until Fall 2011. Discussion followed and it was agreed that this would actually work in our favor, giving us time to bring about awareness via Apple Country Fair and similar events such as Massachusetts Ag Day and North Brookfield's May Festival. Ken mentioned that he would speak with the Conservation Commission on our behalf. Clarence will speak to Mike regarding Selectmen, Zoning and other Boards, referring to the other Towns that have Commissions/By-laws of one of two versions: one approved by the Attorney General with necessary realtor paperwork and the other modified By-law with no real estate encumbrance, such as Brookfield's proposed By-law.

The rest of the meeting focused on discussions regarding a Communications Plan to promote the Commission objectives:

- Apple Country Fair - local Farmer's Market - CSA's - Food Shares
- inviting our Representative Ann Gobi to our meetings
- Poker Runs visiting local farms (similar to Artist Tours)
- articles and timely press releases to invite to public to our meetings (similar to "Meet the Candidates")
- local inventory for "who has what" available in our Town

A draft article for the Citizen was presented and approved.

Next meeting is planned for June 15th, 6:30PM Town Hall. Clarence will talk to Mike about posting the meeting

Motion to adjourn at 7:12PM, seconded and passed. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:

Barbara Haberlin