

Town of Brookfield, MA  
Agricultural Commission  
Minutes of Meeting  
October 19, 2011

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman, Clarence Snyder.

Commission members present:

Paul Benjamin, James Dolan, Ron Starcher, Barbara Haberlin and Clarence Snyder

Alternate members present:

Ken Cleveland, Don Grimes, Don Haberlin and Steve Novak

Commissioners/Alternates not present: Mark Ledoux

Bylaw Committee representatives present: James Cooke, Rudy Heller, Mike Seery, and Barbara Wilson

Others present: Robert R. Barnes, Daniel Leahy

- **Minutes** of the September 21, 2011 meeting were reviewed. There was a motion and a second to accept the minutes as presented. After no further discussion the motion carried. Clarence will send minutes and the agenda for the next meeting to Mike Seery for posting.
- **Farmers Market/Brochure:** The balance of the Agriculture Commission brochures were handed out – more will be printed. Market Manager, Ron Starcher stated that the market did well for the first year. The brochure and the market timing will be revisited in January/February.
- **Apple Country Fair:** Plans for a better space for the Agriculture Commission booth will be discussed at a later date. Donations received at this year's Apple Country Fair totaled \$41.00 and have been applied to printing expenses.
- **OSV:** Town Farm Gardens participated at the OSV Harvest Day activities.
- **Right-to-Farm Bylaw :** The Commission again welcomed members of the By-Law Committee. As agreed, Sections of the proposed RTF bylaw and pertinent Zoning language were reviewed and suggested changes were presented by James Cook.

1. Section 1 (Legislative Purpose and Intent), Paragraphs 1 and 2 remain; a third paragraph was suggested as follows: “The bylaw will apply to all property owners having five (5) or more acres in all jurisdictional areas of the town. Although cultivation and tillage of soil for growing vegetables, fruits, grains and grasses are allowed in all jurisdictions, for owners with less than five (5) acres of land, the keeping of livestock will be allowed as provided for in Section 4A. Owners of land of five acres or more shall be allowed to keep livestock animals of any type in any amount provided the owner complies with all existing regulations in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.”
2. It was suggested that part of Section 3 (Right to Farm Declaration) be deleted and Section 4 (Precedence) , deleted in full.

Further discussion followed section by section regarding terminology, definitions about large and small animals, penning and fencing, warnings, fines, noise, odors – discussion will be continued at the next scheduled meeting on November 16, 2011. MDAR (Mass Dept. of Agricultural Resources) has offered their services in reviewing our RTF Bylaw.

With no other business, the next meeting was scheduled for November 16, 2011, back to 6:30p.m. It was motioned and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Haberlin