

Town of Brookfield, MA
Agricultural Commission
Minutes of Meeting
January 18, 2012

Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairman, Clarence Snyder.

Commission members present: Paul Benjamin, James Dolan, Ron Starcher, Barbara Haberlin and Clarence Snyder

Alternate members present: Don Grimes, Steve Novak, Don Haberlin

Commissioners/Alternates not present: Mark Ledoux

Others present: Robert R. Barnes, Ken Cleveland, David Holdcraft

Minutes of the December 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.

Draft of 2011 Annual Report: Draft, previously sent via email, was approved and sent.

Funding: Regarding our request for \$500.00 for expenditures, there are (2) ways to receive these funds: a rolling account – if the money is not used, balance is rolled over to the next year; yearly basis – once money is spent or not, it is gone at the end of the year. Commission choice is for a rolling account. Clarence will send our choice to Donna Neylon.

Farmers Market/Brochure: Paul Benjamin will go to a printer in Spencer for another quote for 2,500 brochures. Our timeline: February and March – revise draft and get quotes for printing as well as solicit donations and, with Apple Seed article, look for additions to our map. April – final draft and receive funds. May – prepare hard copy and June – start up Farmers Markets.

Right-to-Farm Bylaw: After some research, it was found that some Right to Farm issues are already included in the Town's Zoning By-laws (Use Regulation Table – Section D-1-a). RTF objective is also evident in several section of the Approved Master Plan. Commission plans to invite Town Boards to our February meeting for a discussion of the definition of farming so that the Town understands examples of what it means to farm and what goes along with farming. On several issues, particularly regarding logging/forestry, it seems there is conflict between Town (Zoning – p. 25 Section 8, #4) and State (CH 132).

Farmers Markets – scheduled to begin in June 2012. Ron Starcher, Market Manager discussed the need for more vendors and whether we should invite local crafters to participate. Also we will be working with the Cultural Commission to

coincide with Summer Concerts on the Common adding their schedule to our brochure.

Discussion followed, led by Ken Cleveland regarding a complaint about the property at 56 Long Hill Rd., particularly about how the animals are kept and the run-off into the wetland area next to the property. It was suggested that we send a letter stating that the situation is not consistent with good agriculture practices. After a motion and a second, motion passes and Clarence will send the letter.

Note for agenda at the February meeting: Cooley Hill Reservoir.

With no other business or discussion, the next meeting was scheduled for February 15, 2012, at 6:30 p.m. It was motioned and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Haberlin