

Town of Brookfield, MA
Agricultural Commission
Minutes of Meeting
December 19, 2012

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

Commission members present:

Paul Benjamin, Ron Starcher, Barbara Haberlin and Clarence Snyder

Alternate members present:

Steve Novak, Don Grimes, Don Haberlin

Commissioners/Alternates not present: Mark Ledoux, Ken Cleveland

Others present: Don Taft

- **Minutes** of the October 17, 2012 meeting were read. 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:** Ron Starcher will prepare an article for the January Citizen reviewing last summer's market in conjunction with Cultural Council. We look to come back this year on Fridays on the Common with the same schedule with Ron as our Market Manager. We will continue to work with Jim Dolan on using his driveway as an additional location for our market during the week. We are working on expanding and vendor fees were discussed: \$25 per season or \$5.00 per market to help with expenses such as advertising. We have 6 signs and Clarence will work on 2 more A-frame signs to help pull people from Route 9.
- **Apple Country Fair:** No discussion at this meeting.
- **Right-to-Farm Bylaw:** In January we will continue our planning for presentation at the next Town Meeting. For our February meeting, we will plan to invite the Board of Selectmen and all other interested Boards via email listings and get back planning our presentation, discussing MGL "True Farms", protecting the existing farms in Brookfield and reiterating the fact that we mean business.
- **Discussions:** Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Agency – Clarence presented the recent meeting results, discussing the different areas of Central Mass, the ongoing activities/facilities and the effects on neighboring Towns. Don Taft, VP QQLA and active Brookfield resident was present at the CMRPA

meetings. He talked about promoting agricultural activities and cooperation between the Towns to achieve results.

- Clarence discussed the Town Report for 2013 which will include highlights of 2012, good growth at the Farmers' Market, Cooperation with Board of Health and Conservation regarding several issues in Town, Cooperation with the Cultural Council, participation in the Apple Country Fair and that we are still viable and meet on a monthly basis.
- Our next meeting was scheduled for January 16, 2013 at 6:30 p.m.
- With a motion and a second, the meeting was adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Barbara Haberlin