

Town of Brookfield, MA
Agricultural Commission
Minutes of Meeting
January 16, 2013

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

Commission members present:

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

Alternate members present:

Steve Novak, Don Grimes, Don Haberlin and Ken Cleveland,

Commissioners/Alternates not present: Mark Ledoux,

- **Minutes** of the December 19, 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: On February 27-8, 2013, the Harvest New England Agricultural Conference takes place in Sturbridge. There was a motion made for Ron Starcher, Brookfield Farmers' Market Manager to attend the Managers' Workshop at a cost of \$50.00. A second to the motion was made and the motion passed. Ron will present discussion on "lessons learned" at the March meeting. Also, Ron will redo Farmers' Market rules including fees discussed at January meeting and we will work on buying/making more Farmers' Market signs. We will revisit and fine tune Jim Dolan's location for weekday market possibility. Also, plans for one of the June markets will include Chicken Education and in September, raising bees.

- **Right-to-Farm Bylaw:** Invites to interested Town Boards will be put off until March. Clarence will draft a petition/signature page following specifications on the recent Town email for, active campaigning until the April deadline for petitions.
- **Discussions:** Steve Novak attended a recent meeting of PALA in Sturbridge. He presented them with our flyer and has worked on a telephone interview with Maureen Stevens for creating a regional directory/map of farms in the area. OSV already has an "Agro Tourism Map" available. Discussion followed regarding Quabbin Hills Chamber of Commerce and Quabbin Valley Commercial Development Corporation applying for and receiving

funds from the USDA. Should we think about applying for funds for marketing – such as for more signs, brochures, etc.?

- Our next meeting was scheduled for February 16, 2013 at 6:30 p.m.
- With a motion and a second, the meeting was adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Barbara Haberlin