

TOWN OF LAKEVILLE
Agricultural Commission
Meeting Minutes
February 6, 2017

Opening:

This meeting was held at the Lakeville Council on Aging at 1 Dear Crossing, Lakeville MA 02347. This meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm on February 6th, 2017 by Paul Hunt.

Present:

Paul Hunt, Shawn Conway, Tracie Treleaven, Joan Morton, Iain Ward, Dave Thomas Jr.,

Absent:

Jared Darling, Kelly Conway, (Ann Gredler arrived late)

LakeCAM was present to record the meeting. Audio was recorded for meeting minutes purposes only.

Discuss updates on methods of contacting the Agriculture Commission

Tracie Treleaven stated that everyone on the board officially has e-mails through the town and that Paul Hunt will be the main contact. The Agricultural Commissions web site is up and running which is accessible through the towns web site. The mission statement used is the same as the one we had written down for the town meeting last June

Mission statement update

Joan Morton created a mission statement of which we all reviewed. Paul Hunt stated that we should continue with what is currently being used for now which was the statement published in last Junes town meeting.

Farm Bureau update & Ch 40A Section 8L update

Iain Ward attended the Farm Bureau meeting, he discussed changes that went through that allows an Agricultural Commission to hold land and receive money giving the commission more strength in keeping, preserving and helping with farm land. Iain stated it will be interesting to see how other towns start to implement this new law. Paul Hunt stated for anyone interested in looking into this that it is listed under Massachusetts zoning laws Ch 40A Section 8L which became effective last year.

Iain Ward also talked about another the new food safety modernization act regulations (FSMA) law that passed in January 2016. This law affects farms that gross over 500 thousand a year and up. More Regulations are going to affect produce and the states standards. There are grants that farmers can apply for to help with their farming and costs. Iain will update us further with grants. To learn more on FSMA you can go to:
<https://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceRegulation/FSMA/ucm395105.htm>.

Old business

Joan Spoke to Rita about attending events in town, she said we can have tables at Ted Williams under the auspices of the Park Commission or at the old town hall under the auspices of the Historical Commission. Summer fest or winter fest are all possible events that will be good for us to present what we have.

Dave Thomas has no updates and still needs to talk to Tracie about setting up a link for a pole/questionnaire about the clubs and interest that are out there.

Review and vote to approve Agricultural Commission Meeting Minutes of January 9, 2017

Upon a motion made by Paul Hunt; seconded by Joan Morton it was:

VOTED: To approve the Agricultural Commission Meeting Minutes of January 9th, 2017 as presented.
Unanimous in favor

New business

Iain Ward was wondering where we were at with the right to farm by law. With attending the Farm Bureau meeting, it should not be a big deal. It's already in the state laws. Local language should not change too much and allows us to add signs. Further discussions will be put on next month's meeting agenda. Mr. Santos asked a question about perusing a right to farm by law? It is and it will be added as a discussion at the next meeting for the perusal of the right to farm by-law for the town of Lakeville.

Any other business that could possibly come before the Agricultural Commission

There is none.

Adjournment

Upon a motion made by Chairman Paul Hunt; seconded by Joan Morton it was:

VOTED: To adjourn the Agricultural Commission February meeting at 7:39 pm.
Unanimous in favor.

Next Meeting Date and Time

The next meeting will be held on March 10th, 2017 at 7:00 pm at the Lakeville Council on Aging at 1 Dear Crossing, Lakeville MA 02347

Guests: Dennis Santos