

TOWN OF LAKEVILLE
Agricultural Commission
Meeting Minutes
March 13th, 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 7:08 pm on March 13th, 2017 by Paul Hunt.

Present:

Paul Hunt, Shawn Conway, Tracie Treleaven, Joan Morton, Dave Thomas Jr., Jared Darling

Absent:

Iain Ward, Kelly Conway, Ann Gredler

LakeCAM was present to record the meeting.

Review and vote to approve Agricultural Commission Meeting Minutes of February 6th, 2017

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

VOTED: To approve the Agricultural Commission Meeting Minutes of February 6th, 2017 as presented with corrections. Unanimous in favor

Discuss Lakeville Specific right to farm

Paul Hunt talks about Ann Gredler wanting to discuss a Lakeville Specific right to farm by-law there was an initial Lakeville right to farm by-law being worked on but was tabled from last year's Town Hall Meeting. He stated that Iain Ward talked about different legislations in MA that have been put into effect at the last meeting. Paul discussed why we removed it from the previous town halls meeting because that it was that we were not ready yet to submit it. Shawn Conway felt that we should not reinvent the wheel and keep with the States right to farm by-law. Paul stated that he and Iain agreed that we should wait to see what happens with the new legislature. He agrees that it should also be similar to the state's basic right to farm by law. Dave Thomas agrees that we should go with what the state has. Jared Darling wants clarification what rights does the by-law give whether it's Commercial or private. He states the majority of Lakeville is for farming. He thinks it would be easier and a good step in that direction using what the state has. Paul asks Jared does he know if there is anything specific that needs to be addressed in that by law that is either too over protected or not? Jared thinks currently there are no problems. Paul wants to know if there is anything beneficial for the town's by-law and acknowledges that is a beneficial program. Paul talks about Ann's concerns about wanting signage and notifications. Shawn talks about the signs raising awareness when people come from an urban region that enter the town that it makes them aware they may not know much about agriculture. The law needs to be passed before signs could go up. Mr. Santos stated that the law is a very broad reach as far as what someone could do. He questions and has concerns on acres and parcels along with plot guide lines. What is the scope of activities that can be done on these parcels? Are they always appropriate? His major concerns are with the scope of activities and with the smaller parcels on residential areas that's where he has major concerns and wants it to be open to discussion. Shawn discusses on how those matters should be handled on a case by case basis. Jared talks about there are differences between parcels in regard to animal and public health. Dennis mentions the inner play between odors and insects and items of that nature and items like zoning by-laws and which would take precedent. Paul states that is why we tabled it at the Town hall, it would impact the board of health and what we are trying to do is to protect the people that do have an interest on the smaller end of things. Dennis states that he is the only one here and wonders what the interest level is with the town; maybe we should focus on the education and farmers markets. Paul agrees that we should be working on other items like the farmers market and furthering education. Tracie Treleaven stated that the right to farm by-law should continue to be discussed. There is interest with the town and it will take a lot of time and there are others interested in seeing the law go through. Paul Hunt agrees that Ann still needs to have her say and we all need to compare notes. It will be put on the April meeting agenda.

Old business

Dave Thomas talked to Tracy Craig and there is a way to put a poll up on the Agricultural Commissions website and the superintendent will be happy to send out a notification to the parents. There is a large amount of clubs and we need to narrow it down to get a better idea of what people want on the poll and then Dave Thomas will get that poll up on the site after we decide on a list of clubs to choose from. Tracie Treleaven talked about links for additional information like a Facebook page. Paul is waiting for a response from the Middleboro's conservation administration to get some additional information on that.

New business

We will hear from Dave Thomas next month about the poll and the 4-H. Dave Thomas talked about the farmers market. Can we come up with a way to determine if there will be an impact and if we do have one where do we want it? Dave Thomas stated that we should reach out to the farmers who have fruit stands and see where they stand in regards to a farmers market. It's to help support the local farmers and to help them get their business out there. Also organizing a spring time seminar on an agricultural subject would be great for the commission. Joan will talk to the garden club.

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 March meeting at 7:44 pm.
Unanimous in favor.

Next Meeting Date and Time

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

Guests: Dennis Santos