

Williamsburg Agricultural Commission

Tuesday, November 11, 2008

Williamsburg Town Hall

Commission Members Present: Alden Bacon, Paul Zononi, Jacqueline Dufresne, Alan Everett, Lincoln Fish

Members of the Public Present: Lainie Dufresne

Meeting convened at 7:15 P.M.

Minutes

Alan Everett moved, Alden Bacon second to accept the minutes for the May and September meetings. Approved unanimously.

Meeting dates for 2009

Lincoln Fish moved, Paul Zononi second that our meetings will occur in January, April August and November (quarterly). We will continue to meet on the second Tuesday of the four meeting months. We will not meet in February, May or October so as not to conflict with the Williamsburg Historical Society meetings. Passed unanimously.

Lincoln Fish moved, Alan Everett second, passed unanimously to adjourn at 7:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Lincoln Fish
Recording Secretary

Williamsburg Agricultural Commission

Tuesday, September 9, 2008

Williamsburg Town Hall

Commission Members Present: Alden Bacon, Paul Zononi, Jacqueline Dufresne, Alan Everett, Lincoln Fish

Members of the Public Present: None

Meeting convened at 7:20 P.M.

Minutes

No minutes were available from our last meeting (May). The secretary will check on the status of these minutes.

Disapproval by MA Attorney General of Section 5 of the Ag Bylaw

Section 5 states that the bylaw becomes effective upon filing with the Massachusetts Attorney General. In fact, the Attorney General has informed us that the Bylaw becomes effective upon legal posting by the town subsequent to approval by the Attorney General. The rest of the Williamsburg Agricultural Bylaw was approved by the Attorney General. The Williamsburg Town Clerk has legally posted said Bylaw. Consequently, the Williamsburg Agricultural Bylaw is now legally binding, minus Section 5.

Discussion of signs for main roads into town announcing that Williamsburg is a Right-To-Farm Community

Lincoln will check with Pete Westover to see if such signs are available through the State.

The Agricultural Commission agreed to continue meeting monthly until there is nothing left on the agenda.

Notice of agricultural land withdrawal from Chapter 61A

The commission received notice from the Selectboard of the withdrawal of a parcel of Chapter 61A land located on Walpole Hill Road. We appreciate being notified and will communicate this to the Selectboard. In this case, the parcel is a small fraction of an acre (6390 sq.ft.). Consequently, we recommend that the town not exercise its option to purchase. We look forward to being notified of Chapter-land withdrawal cases in the future and will gladly provide input if requested.

Alan Everett moved, Paul Zononi seconded, passed unanimously to adjourn at 7:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Lincoln Fish
Recording Secretary

Williamsburg Agricultural Commission

Tuesday, May 13, 2008

Williamsburg Town Hall

Commission Members Present: Alden Bacon, Paul Zononi, Jacqueline Dufresne, Alan Everett, Lincoln Fish

Members of the Public Present: Lainie Dufresne

Meeting convened at 7:10 P.M.

Minutes

April minutes were reviewed. Accepted unanimously (Alan Everett move, Paul Zononi second).

Discussion of upcoming Town Meeting June 2, All Boards Meeting June 10

Jacqueline will place informational handouts on table at town meeting.

Question: Does text of Ag Bylaw appear on warrant so that it will be available to all in attendance? If so, it may be unnecessary to provide handouts. Jacqueline will find out from the town clerk or selectboard.

In order to increase chances for passage, it should be mentioned at town meeting that the Ag Bylaw is not a zoning bylaw.

Lincoln Fish move, Alan Everett second that the Commission distribute whatever advance publicity about the Bylaw that seems prudent, after we learn about whether the text of the Bylaw is contained in the Town Warrant. Passed unanimously.

Lincoln Fish move, Alan Everett second, passed unanimously to adjourn at 7:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Lincoln Fish
Recording Secretary

Williamsburg Agricultural Commission

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

Williamsburg Town Hall

Commission Members Present: Jacqueline Dufresne, Alan Everett, Lincoln Fish

Members of the Public Present: None

Meeting convened at 7:10 P.M.

Minutes

Jacqueline Dufresne offered a correction to the minutes of the special meeting of Feb. 19: Paul Zononi volunteered to serve on the Agricultural Commission for an additional 1-year term. The original minutes had stated that he volunteered for an additional 3-year term.

Alan Everett moved that we accept the Feb. 19 minutes as amended.

Lincoln Fish second

Passed unanimously.

Discussion of letter from Jeff Cuiffreda, Williamsburg Selectboard (letter attached)

Jeff's letter states that upon checking with the Town Attorney, the proposed Agricultural Bylaw does not have to go before the planning board before being presented to Town Meeting.

Jacqueline Dufresne agreed to send the final draft of the proposed Ag Bylaw to the Selectboard's secretary in order to get it placed on the Warrant. J.D. will get a warrant article request cover sheet from the secretary in order to properly request a place on the Warrant. J.D. will also send the final draft to the Town Administrator and the Town Clerk.

Alan Everett moved, Lincoln Fish seconded, passed unanimously to adjourn at 7:29 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Lincoln Fish

Recording Secretary

10 May 2006

FC Commission

I wanted to be sure we closed all the loops since we last met.

We have dealt with the Town attorney and have discussed with Roger Bunker, the matter of changing the proposed by-law to Town Meetings.

At does not have to go through Planning. You should get it to us and we will put it on the warrant. We're working on a time line.

We are also working on a memo to the town. We will have you by law and one from Planning. Our Town administrator will be the contact.

Thank you for your work. AM Campbell

Williamsburg Agricultural Commission

Tuesday, February 19, 2008

Williamsburg Town Hall

Commission Members Present: Alden Bacon, Jacqueline Dufresne, Alan Everett, Lincoln Fish, Paul Zononi

Members of the Public Present: Lanie Dufresne

*Note: This was a special meeting called to consider revisions to the proposed Williamsburg Right-To-Farm Bylaw and to review the steps necessary to present said Bylaw to Williamsburg Town Meeting in June.

Meeting convened at 7:10 P.M.

Minutes

January and February 12 minutes were approved unanimously. Alan Everett moved, Alden Bacon second.

Discussion of proposed Right-to-Farm Bylaw

- 1) A numbering error was pointed out, with the Bylaw containing two Section 2's.
- 2) Alan Everett moved, Alden Bacon seconded that the Commission accept the current draft of the Bylaw with numerical corrections made. Passed unanimously.
- 3) Lincoln Fish will distribute copies of the current draft of the Bylaw to the Town Clerk, Selectboard and Planning Board via email. He will also include a paragraph describing the Bylaw that the Ag Commission requests the Selectboard to include in their newsletter before Town Meeting.
- 4) Jacqueline Dufresne will request a copy of the Warrant Article Request Cover Sheet from Town Clerk.
- 5) The Commission hopes to hear from Town Counsel by next week concerning the necessity of presenting the proposed Bylaw to the Planning Board and the associated public hearing process prior to Town Meeting.

Other Business:

Jacqueline Dufresne will meet with the Town Clerk to attempt to clarify conflicting information received concerning the terms of appointed Agricultural Commission members and alternates. Paul Zononi volunteered to serve for another ~~three~~ ^{one} year term.

Alan Everett moved, Lincoln Fish second, passed unanimously to adjourn at 7:40.

Respectfully submitted,

Lincoln Fish
Recording Secretary

Williamsburg Agricultural Commission

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Williamsburg Town Hall

Commission Members Present: Alden Bacon, Jacqueline Dufresne, Alan Everett, Lincoln Fish, Paul Zononi

Members of the Public Present: Roger Bisbee, Jeff Ciuffreda, Jim Locke

*Note: This meeting served both as the regular monthly meeting of the Agricultural Commission and an advertised public forum concerning the proposed Williamsburg Right-To-Farm Bylaw.

Meeting convened at 7:00 P.M.

Minutes

Copies of January minutes were not available, so they will be considered at the March 2008 meeting.

Discussion of proposed Right-to-Farm Bylaw

- 1) Roger Bisbee, member of the Williamsburg Planning Board, said that all Bylaws, including this one, need to be presented to the Planning Board and go through a public hearing before being presented to Town Meeting.
- 2) Jim Locke, member of the Williamsburg Planning Board pointed out that our draft bylaw contained two section 5's. He also suggested drafting a form on which "aggrieved persons" could file an agriculture-related complaint. He also suggested moving the real estate disclosure notice to the top of the Bylaw to serve as a more inviting introduction and statement of our purposes.
- 3) The Planning Board requested that we send them a revised draft of the Bylaw.
- 4) It was suggested that we specify the number of days within which we will respond to agricultural related complaints that are presented to the Agricultural Commission.
- 5) Question: have disputes in other towns with Ag Bylaws gone to court? If so, what effect did the Bylaw have? Lincoln will ask Pete Westover.
- 6) Jeff Ciuffreda will ask Town Counsel if it is necessary to send the Ag Bylaw through a Planning Board public hearing. He will also get us a dog complaint form to use as a template for ag complaints.

Lincoln Fish moved, Alden Bacon second, approved unanimously: The Agricultural Commission will hold a special meeting next Tuesday, February 19 at 7:00 P.M. in order to approve the latest Bylaw draft and to expedite the next steps toward presenting the Bylaw at Town Meeting in June.

Other Business:

Jacqueline Dufresne reported a conversation with Candice Smith of the Williamsburg Grange, offering to write a letter of support for the proposed Bylaw and for our work in general. Ms Smith also mentioned the possibility of funding for a mailing to town landowners/residents to publicize the Bylaw.

) Jeff Ciuffreda said that the Ag Commission should report expenses and fiscal needs to the Selectboard for possible funding. He also said that appointments to the Commission are on a fiscal-year basis, so that terms start July 1 and end June 30.

Lincoln Fish moved, Alan Everett seconded, passed unanimously to adjourn at 8:25.

Respectfully submitted,

Lincoln Fish
Recording Secretary

Adjourn: Lincoln Fish move, Alden Bacon second. Unanimous 7:50

Respectfully submitted,

Lincoln Fish
Recording Secretary
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Williamsburg Agricultural Commission

Tuesday, January 8, 2008

Williamsburg Town Hall

Commission Members Present: Alden Bacon, Jacqueline Dufresne, Lincoln Fish

Members of the Public Present: None

Meeting convened at 7:10 P.M.

Minutes

November and December minutes read and approved. Alden Bacon moved, Lincoln Fish seconded, voted unanimously.

Strategy for publicizing proposed Public Forum to consider Right-to-Farm Bylaw 2/12/08

- 1) Flyer for Town Board mailboxes plus Town Hall bulletin board. Lincoln will write up press release to be used as flyer (attached).
- 2) Press release to newspapers and Planet (school newspaper).
- 3) Message boards on Route 9 at ends of town.
- 4) Alden Bacon will ask Town Clerk to put the Forum on the official town schedule and to reserve Rm 203 for the Forum.
- 5) We will call all Ag Commission members, asking that they attend the Forum.

Lincoln Fish will email the latest draft of the Bylaw to all commission members before Thursday, so that Alden Bacon will be able to take a copy to the Town Clerk, in order for her to make it available to interested parties.

Alden Bacon will attend the meeting for town Agricultural Commissions on January 12 in Northampton.

Adjourn: Lincoln Fish move, Alden Bacon second. Unanimous 7:37

Respectfully submitted,

Lincoln Fish
Recording Secretary