

Williamsburg Agricultural Commission Meeting
Thursday, February 9th, 2017
7 PM, Town Offices

In attendance: Meg Taylor, Paul Zononi, Alan Everett, David Nehring, Amanda Emerson, Keith Dufresne, Andy Erwin

Call to order at 7:10 PM
November 10th meeting minutes were accepted.

Old business:

1. Town farms brochure – Alan presented a few drafts of the farm brochure for our review and discussion. Emily Everett provided general and design comments for the commission including needing higher quality photo images and updated information from farms. Paul and David will email a few print quality farm photos to Emily. Emily will refine the map and make any edits as needed before printing. All members of the commission agreed to pay Emily \$200 for her design services out of the funds allocated for the production of the farm brochure.
2. Postponed idea of hosting a community pancake breakfast at the Grange this spring. Members felt more time and research is needed.
3. There were no town committee outreach reports. Members of the Ag Com plan to attend future Board of Health, Open Space and Conservation Commission meetings to share farmer perspectives and keep communication open between the Ag Com and these town committees.

Meetings:

Board of Health – 1st and 3rd Monday of month at 2 PM, town offices

Conservation Comm – 2nd Thursday of month at 7 PM, town offices

Open Space – 4th Wednesday of the month at 7 PM

New business:

1. Meg reported out on January 14th Connecticut Valley Ag Com Conference in S. Deerfield – towns represented, Ag Com concerns and initiatives/ projects
2. Discussed meaning of new state statute for agricultural commissions, MGL Chapter 40A, Section 8L – *allowing Agricultural Commissions to acquire and manage parcels of farmland to keep land in active agriculture through leases or license to farmers, operation of community gardens, or other means.* The commission decided to not create a warrant article for town meeting at this time. Members would like to learn more about this statute and its provisions.
3. There is a *Keep Farming* meeting on February 22nd at the Chesterfield CDC at 7 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 PM

Next meeting: May 11, 2017 at 7 PM