

Town of Bolton Agricultural Commission

Meeting Minutes

Date: December 15, 2009

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

www.boltonag.com

63 Main Street

978 779-2297 or 779-3308

Joe Kovacs 779-6979

Ken Nicewicz 779-6423

Sue Storbeck 779-6020

Barbara Parente 779-6303

Betsy Taylor-Kennedy 779-5213

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Term Exp 6/30/2010

Term Exp 6/30/2010

Term Exp 6/30/2011

Term Exp 6/30/2012

Term Exp 6/30/2012

A meeting of the Bolton Agricultural Commission was held on 15 December 2009 at Town Hall. The meeting was called to order at 7:36 pm. Commission members in attendance were: Joe Kovacs, Ken Nicewicz, Sue Storbeck, Barbara Parente, Betsy Taylor-Kennedy.

Reports from liaisons to town Boards/Commissions:

Board of Health – Sue – called but no follow up

Planning Board – Ken – attended Planning Board hearing on Toth FOSPRG, meadow to be preserved. Developer to attend a future meeting with Ag Com to work out details

Board of Selectmen – no report

Conservation Commission – Barbara – Carol G. reminded Ag Com of Planning Board hearing on Toth property

Current business:

1. Meeting with farmers:

Meeting with farmers in February or March. Joe looking toward larger room for this meeting. January meeting to work on subjects to be discussed.

2. Conflict of Interest law training – all but Ken and Barbara – *B completed*

3. Right to Farm signs:

- Sue talked to graphic people. Tie to apples, keep it simple. Sign size 18" x 24". Important ag commodities to Bolton – apples, sheep, horses. Sue talked to highway and information given to Selectmen. Price - \$164 or less. Joe made motion to have Sue in charge of artwork. Passed. Sue to get clip art from Joe, Barbara and Ken

4. Protection of Large Farms:

- No news

5. Directional farm stand signs at Rte 495 exit ramps:

- Joe to have draft sign for February meeting meeting with farmers

6. Ag Comm website:

- Add Holiday sales
- Web site minutes update. Joe to provide Barbara with PDF version so minutes can be sent to town secretary. Will be able to interact with Town of Bolton website.

7. 2nd annual Ag Comm-sponsored holiday sale

- Barbara and Sue presented survey for Agricultural businesses at Annual Holiday sale for vendors. Goal to get more vendors and increase sales.
- Motion made and seconded to mail out surveys.
- Reach out to other newspapers and venues – public relations on Holiday event
- Ken reported speaking to Rich P. of Nashoba Valley Winery and working with the winery in pairing with Nashoba's festivals.

8. Betsy reported on Open Meeting Law workshop held in Stow

9. Library

- a. Sue reported use of library open to finite exhibits. Many individuals interested. Library is working on an exhibition policy. Board of Trustees working on permanent exhibit space.
- b. Meeting room policy – as many people are interested in meeting spaces that 30 days after opening a set policy on program room as meeting space.
- c. February 6 GRAND OPENING 1 – 4 pm

10. Monster List

- a. Joe circulated amended list showing completed items
 - Promote agriculture
 - We represent farmers to town government
 - Help farmers be more successful – how can ag com help.
 - Elimination of Excise tax
 - History of agriculture in Bolton – work with Historical Society
 - Farm Town Meeting – farm touring with local, state and natl. politicians
- b. Ongoing
 - Holiday sale and presence at Bolton Fair
 - Brochure/map
 - Website
 - To promote what ag com is currently doing
- c. List may change after meeting with farm community

11. Farm Excise tax

- a. Who is taxed and how much is generated

12. Agenda for Farmers' meeting

- a. Identify farmers
- b. Send invitation

Meeting was adjourned at 9:23 pm.