

Minutes October 4, 2010

Great Barrington Agricultural Commission

Meeting called to order at 7:10 pm

Present: Dennis Mareb, Barbara Zheutlin, Laura Meister, Vivian Orłowski, Hilda Banks Shapiro, MaryBeth Merritt, Nick Stanton, (citizen GB), Chris Rembold, (representing Town of Great Barrington, master planning committee) Ben Grosscup (representing Glynwood Keep Farming)

Minutes from July 8th meeting accepted with minor correction to Ms. Orłowski's name spelling.

Presentation by Chris Rembold, Town Planner for Great Barrington. Chris outlined the makeup of the committee and described the basic commitments. He asked for the Agriculture commission to name a representative to the Master Planning Committee. A motion was made to name MaryBeth Merritt the primary representative to the Master Planning Committee and for Vivian Orłowski to be the alternate. This was voted favorably and unanimously.

Next order of business was a conversation with Ben Grosscup regarding the idea of Great Barrington's Ag Commission being willing to pledge support for Glynwood's Keep Farming Program. After comments and discussion, a resolution was made to support this request. The resolution may be refined, but was written as follows:

"The Great Barrington Agriculture Commission hereby supports Glynwood's Keep Farming Program in Great Barrington with the intention of collaborating with neighboring towns."

GREAT BARRINGTON
TOWN CLERK
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A request for further information from Ben and Glynwood was made so that a memorandum of understanding can be drawn up between the two parties. It is the intention of the GB AG Comm to understand the

approved 1/28/11

commitment and responsibilities before a formal agreement is made between the two parties.

A meeting between a representative of Chatham Keep Farming, MaryGail Beibel, is being arranged so that the Ag Comm and GB townspeople will have a better grasp of what the program offers. It is anticipated that this meeting will be in November and will be a public forum.

Next order of business was a cursory discussion of the "right-to-farm" bylaw and how to get that information out to the public. This item was tabled until our next meeting in December.

Some discussion centered around advisory groups and getting people to help the Ag Comm. It was noted that the Ag Comm can probably not be the ones to form the Community Agricultural Partnership with the Glynwwod program as it is probably out of our purview. That will be taken up later.

The agenda for our next meeting was set as follows:

Right to Farm

Review Keep Farming information

Review the community meeting with MaryGail Beibel and Chatham Keep Farming

Review master Planning Committee meeting

Respectfully submitted,

MaryBeth Merritt