

July 8, 2010 Minutes Great Barrington Agricultural Commission Meeting

Meeting called to order at 7:25 pm

Present: Dennis Mareb, Barbara Zheutlin, Laura Meister, MaryBeth Merritt,
And alternates, Vivian Orlovski, Hilda Banks Shapiro

Noted that Ms. Orlovski's mailing address is POBox 278, please change

Accepted minutes from May meeting with a request to include the questions that were submitted to Ben Grosscup of Glynwood Keep Farming and his responses, to preserve a record of activity. Unanimous

Officers were elected as such:

Vice Chair: Dennis Mareb

Chair: MaryBeth Merritt

Secretary is not elected until clarity about the role of this position is fully established. A question arose regarding who takes notes and it was noted that in the past it has been the Town Manager. Will this continue to be so?

Proceeded to discussion of the role and purpose of the Ag Comm. Dennis Mareb reviewed the questions the comm. Had submitted and responses from Ben Grosscup of Glynwood. Also recapped last meeting. Several concerns were brought forward regarding the scope of the Glynwood Keep Farming project relative to GB as a commercial and social center for agriculture and general south county activities. It was decided that this commission would prefer to work with other communities in the South Berkshire region and that we would ask Grosscup if that is possible. If he replies in the affirmative then the Ag Comm would like to contact the other neighboring Ag Comms and invite them to participate in the Keep Farming

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project.

- The new alternate members also spoke to their reasons for joining the Ag Commission. From that and other conversation by members it was generally agreed that the Great Barrington Agriculture Commission would like to proceed in the following ways:

(this is an informal, synopsized statement gleaned from member comments—refinement will ensue)

The GB Ag Comm will advocate, educate, promote and/or act to :

- Influence the Great Barrington planning process and the town master plan
- Economic development that is agriculturally related
- Public awareness through signage and brochures, eg “Right to Farm”
- Food security
- Availability of local fresh food

- Barbara said that she would check with the planning committee to find out when the planning process would be occurring.

MaryBeth said she would follow up with Ben Grosscup.

Further conversation centered on the Massachusetts Food Policy Alliance handout provided.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 14, 2010, in the Town Hall unless otherwise notified.

Submitted by MaryBeth Merritt

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