

Minutes of the Agricultural Advisory Commission
September 23, 2010

Meeting held in the Town Hall meeting room

Members present: Wendell Willard, Al Combs, Pam Browning, Peter Basile

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM

Minutes: The minutes from the meeting of June 24, 2010 were accepted as submitted.

Open Meeting Law: A brief discussion was held about the new Open Meeting Law that went into effect on July 01, 2010. It was noted that we must submit all documents, exhibits and other elements submitted. Al Combs is to ask for clarification at the Selectmen's office.

New Member: As Chairman Frank Carlson had noted in an earlier email that Tim Arnold had indicated he would accept an appointment to the vacancy on the Commission due to the resignation of Sean Bilodeau. The members voted 4 – 0 to recommend that the Selectmen appoint Mr. Arnold to the Commission.

Election of Officers: Wendell Willard indicated that Frank Carlson wished to withdraw as chairman, but remain on the commission. Wendell Willard, Vice-Chairman indicated he would accept the office if elected. It was decided to delay the election of officers until a more full board was present.

Right to Farm Community Signs: It was suggested that we need to erect a total number of at least six signs at various entries to the town (Mass Ave @ Rt 111, Still River Rd., Littleton Rd., Ayer Rd., Bolton Rd., and Stow Rd.). Final numbers of signs and locations to be reviewed just prior to submission of order for the signs. Al Combs was designated to inquire of the Selectmen's office about how to invoice for this expenditure and as to the proper process for erection of same. Pam Browning was designated to follow up with inquires about the art work and sign painter selection process that Bolton used.

Brochures: We will ask Frank Carlson to inquire about the Ayer printer he spoke of at an earlier date to facilitate the Commissions efforts to get this item in movement.

Mapping Project: Al Combs was designated to inquire about the anticipated costs for MRPC to create the new Agricultural Lands of Harvard map.

Web Site: Pam Browning was designated to review the web sites of the Bolton and Holden Agricultural Committees. Questions of the Commission were about linkage to the Town Web site, maintenance of the site, and if minutes could be posted electronically on the site and meet the new Open Meeting Law requirements.

Small Plot Farming Law: Pam Browning indicated that on July 01, 2010 a new state law came into effect giving a “farm” status to small plot farms of 2 Acres or more. The commission will review this law and discuss later it’s impact on farming status for small farms in Harvard.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:31PM

Respectfully submitted,

Al Combs