

Agricultural Commission Meeting
Minutes
July 10, 2018 7:00 PM
Rutland Historical Commission's Wood Studio

Present: Randy Jordan, Pia Nielsen, Debbie Carlson, Glenn Kauppila, and Jerry Kristoff
Guest: Leah Whiteman, Selectboard

Meeting called to order at 7:22

Minutes of June unanimously approved.

Discussion - Use of Agricultural Fields at Glenwood Elementary School

Debbie re-capped June meeting with regard to this item.

Contract for haying was awarded in 2014 to Jimmy Sandstrom and Mike Dennis. Contract is in place until 6/2019.

Barbara Hopson, MDAR Land Use Administrator, has sent us 2 letters regarding this parcel. She was involved in original site work.

Her letters are a copy of original 2006 letter, and a current letter recommending the fields remain in agriculture.

Still to be determined/investigated:

Were there State or Federal funds involved in purchase. Debbie to see Becky Tuttle.

Did the original deed mention any wishes for the future of the land.

Jerry will contact Frank DiLuna (attorney for Mass Farm Bureau) for input.

Is this a Life Flight site.

Email to be sent to Selectboard by July 13. Debbie to compose.

Cover e-mail from Agcom with letters from Barbara Hopson attached.

Points to be made:

Essential to maintain farmland - Rutland's rural heritage.

Under contract until 2019

Not a "farmer maintaining the field". This is a lease, with a fee paid, and his livelihood.

Educational to students to see large scale farming first hand.

Not our intent to take away from town children, but we cannot support taking it from someone else.

Potentially on agenda for Selectboard meeting of July 30.

Discuss failure of Selectboard to reappoint Glenn Kauppila to Agcom and Earthworks Board

Glenn has unanimous support of Commission in both roles.

Debbie to compose 2 separate emails to Selectboard to voice our support that Glenn be reappointed to Agcom and Earthworks.

Points to be made:

Glenn has been a valuable member of Agcom for several years.

In November 2017 the Selectboard requested a representative from Agcom to Earthworks.

We chose Glenn as our most viable representative. Our position has not changed.

Leah Whiteman advised us that there has been discussion among the Selectboard about resuming Selectboard Liaisons to the various Boards and Commissions. They will not attend every meeting, but will be available to us.

Next meeting August 21, 2018

Meeting adjourned at 8:33