

**Agricultural Commission Meeting
Minutes
November 27, 2018 7:00 PM
Rutland Historical Commission's Wood Studio**

Present: Randy Jordan, Glenn Kauppila, Debbie Carlson, Jesse Klayman, Jerry Kristoff
Guests from Holden Agcom arrived 7:30: Steve D'Aquila, Jim Dunn, Chris Hugo

Meeting called to order at 7:11
Minutes of October unanimously approved.

Thanksgiving Dinner
Jerry reports all donations delivered to and accepted by Paula Stidsen

Festival of Trees
Our entry is completed. Jerry requests assistance to transport and set up in the Library.

Special Town Meeting - Agricultural Fields
Randy re-capped events, discussion, and vote.
Discussion postponed @ 7:33 to meet with Holden members.
Will resume after that portion of meeting is complete.

Holden Agricultural Commission

Randy opened conversation

We have hosted similar programs in the past.

Looking toward the future - how can we work together to move beyond our own small meetings, reach the public, educate people and learn ourselves.

How best to provide disclosure to people new to town regarding a Right to Farm community, how to preserve agricultural land.

Holden members outlined their town's Open Space Preservation Fund, which is now in it's third year. It is a line item in the Town budget and requires Town Meeting approval for use.

Agricultural Commission is notified the first day that land is being removed from 61A. They have established a time line for notification to abutters, other town board, land conservation and trustee organizations.

The town can assign right of first refusal to a Land Conservation agency.

Holden member Jim Dunn outlined the process used for starting the Open Space Preservation Fund in Holden. He will forward that information to us.

Open Space Preservation Fund in Holden is not limited to land being removed from 61A

Discussion of Mass Law Chapter 40, Section 8L and the powers that Agricultural Commissions are allowed.

Westminster Agricultural Commission is hosting an informational meeting on January 2, 2019

Discussion turned to Holden trying to organize a Fruit Tree pruning seminar late January or early February 2019.

Motion made by Jerry Kristoff and carried unanimously to join with Holden for this seminar.

Discussion of involving Worcester County Conservation District
Future discussion in December at the Harvest Grille Restaurant,
Exchange of information will continue in the future - emails, etc. exchanged.

Returned to Special Town Meeting discussion at 8:44

After discussion, it was decided that Jerry will contact Frank DiLuna for recommendations.

Other

As a group, as many of us as possible should try to attend presentation on January 2, 2019

Next meeting December 17, 2018, with Holden Agricultural Commission at the Harvest Grille.
Meeting adjourned 9:10