

Agricultural Commission
MINUTES
6-8-09

Attendees: Erin Palumbo, Pat Pepi, Peg Rotti, Sighle Philbin, Frank Perla

The meeting convened at 7:43pm

The minutes from 5/11/2009 were reviewed and accepted with spelling changes to Ms. Philbin and Ms. Lekstrum's name.

A response was received via email from Mr. Gaumond regarding the town land trusts and chapter lands.

Regarding land trusts, Mr. Gaumond sent forward a query for town land trusts to Mr. George Bernardin. Mr. Bernardin stated in a reply email that the West Boylston Land Trust has transferred its assets to the Greater Worcester Land Trust. Mr. Bernardin also stated he would be delighted to work with the AgCom to further protect land in the town. He provided his phone number and email. The meeting members decided to take no further action at this point.

Regarding land trusts, a listing of town residents with chapter land was provided by Ms. Hopewell, Town Clerk, and reviewed. Ms. Palumbo stated she would contact Mr. Gaumond regarding a town map with chapter lands identified. After further discussion, it was decided more information was needed on chapter lands. Ms. Palumbo stated she had met with Ms. Paula Packard at the DCR who was knowledgeable on chapter lands and also the DCR's liason with town farmers. The committee decided to ask Ms. Packard if she could attend the next meeting and provide greater information on chapter lands as well as DCR/agriculture relations.

The committee has decided to delay a public posting regarding the AgCom until a more in depth review of chapter lands has been completed.

The committee reviewed the Mass Legislators Farm Animal Welfare Bill passed along by Mr. Gaumond. Ms. Philbin will speak with Ms. Lekstrum regarding her thoughts on how the bill interplays with the AgCom's mission.

Ms. Palumbo submitted a sample Right to Farm Bylaw. The committee members will review the bylaw and contemplate implementing a similar, formal declaration of farming rights for the Town of West Boylston.

Next Meeting: July 14th, 7:30pm.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:35pm