



Agricultural Commission Meeting Minutes

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| Meeting called to order by: | Pat Pepi – Peg Rotti second |
| Location: | West Boylston Town Offices |
| Date/Time | Tuesday, June 28, 2011, 7:30pm |
| Attendees (Present in Bold) | Pat Pepi, Sighle Philbin, Peggy Rotti, Erin Palumbo, Lynn Fallavollita, Frank Perla |

| Agenda Topics | | Discussion |
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| 1) Review Minutes | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes from the April 5, 2011 meeting reviewed. Motion made to accept by Pat Pepi, Peg Rotti 2nd. Minutes from May 17, 2011 meeting reviewed. Motion made to accept by Pat Pepi, Peg Rotti 2nd. |
| 2) Discussion – Keeping of Roosters | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town resident Patrick Crowley, 64 Bowen Street, addressed the Committee about his neighbor's roosters. His neighbor had 36 birds - 7 of which were roosters, on 1/2 acre of land, right next to his house. The roosters created a noise nuisance and have since been removed. He would like to see a by-law created for residential areas which would state that no roosters are allowed. Pat Pepi explained that by-laws are permanent and would prefer to handle each situation on a case-by-case basis. She told Patrick that the Ag Com is developing specific policies and procedures to deal with complaints. Residents with concerns should be directed to the Ag Com. Patrick pointed out that he did not know to come to the Ag Com with his complaint and no one he spoke to (Board of Health & Police) mentioned this. Patrick was satisfied with the support he received from the Ag Com. Peg Rotti to contact the Banner about the establishment of the Agricultural Commission in West Boylston. Lynn Fallavollita recommended an informational table at the next Town Meeting in October. |
| 3) Protocol for Complaints | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cheryl Lekstrom provided Commission members with information to assist in dealing with agricultural related complaints by residents. A form was introduced – Conflict Resolution Protocol – that can be used by the Commission when documenting/investigating complaints. |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission members voted unanimously to accept this form. • Cheryl also mentioned we would need points of contact information. Sighle, Peggy and Pat agreed to be points of contact. They would document initial complaint received and report back to the Commission for further action. • Cheryl pointed out that when going to the actual site of the complaint, Commission members should always contact the resident before going onto resident's property. • Pat will submit Conflict Resolution form and AgCom contact information to the Board of Health and Police departments. |
| 3) Update on right to Farm Signage | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee discussed ongoing plans to purchase Right to Farm signage for the town. • Sighle will obtain pricing quotes/specs for signage. • Lynn will draft signage proposal for presentation to Leon when all information has been received. |
| 4) Open Space | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission discussed Four Winds Farm – formerly known as “Poor Farm” that is currently for sale. • Cheryl Lekstrom informed the Committee of various funding options available to assist towns in acquiring land. • Sighle pointed out that the farm is on the historic register. • Committee to investigate funding options and discuss with other town committees involved with Open Space preservation. |
| 5) Asian Long Horned Beetles | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sighle reported that she found what appeared to be an Asian Long Horned Beetle on her property. USDA sent a representative to inspect the insect and determined it to be a “look alike”. They gave her information about identifying and reporting questionable insects that she shared with the Commission members. |
| 6) Adjournment | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm. |
| 7) Next Meeting | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next meeting will be held Tuesday, July 26, 2011 @ 7:30pm. |