

Town of Medway
Agricultural Committee Multi town meeting
Franklin Town Hall
Franklin MA
Minutes of Meeting
March 27, 2023

Medway Present: Chairman Alison Dempsey, Secretary Margaret Perkins, Board Members Tiffany Henault, Paul Atwood. Franklin Present: Chairman Roger Trahan, Board Members: Marian Szymanski, Daniel Morse, Pam Gianetti, Melanie Hamblen, Nick Capoccia, CJ Koshivas and Ali Coakley. Franklin Chairman Trahan and Medway Chairman Dempsey called the meeting to order at 7:05M.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes: The Approval the February 2023 minutes will be reviewed at the April 2023 meeting as the meeting today is a joint meeting.

Citizen's comment: Ed Szymanski is Franklin citizen attending the meeting.

Introduction:

- Franklin Chairman Roger Trahan explained why the joint meeting was scheduled for Franklin and Medway. Having this meeting in a beneficial session to get an update with both abutting towns with their accomplished goals since last meeting (prior to global pandemic) and as individual towns and future goals as towns working together and as individual towns.
- Members introduced themselves and their farms.
- Roger asked what Medway has been doing to promote farms and Agricultural Committee.

Medway updates:

- Chairman Board Dempsey mentioned the previous Harvest Hop with the maps and future social media goals is to help improve advertising at the Medway community farm, pumpkin farm, etc.
- Current working on the attempt to amend the Rooster By-law and continue working with the Town Board of Health and Animal Control Officer with the agenda to submit for upcoming town meetings. Franklin Chairman Trahan asked how long it took to get certified as Right to farm town? Board Member Atwood and Chairman Dempsey both agreed that its been a 2 years process. Medway and Franklin members discussed their work on getting improvements for the Right to Farm.
- Secretary Perkins stated the Medway library and 4H is doing a chicken raising program soon. Date to be announced.
- Medway members informed Franklin members that they followed up with Holliston and haven't heard why all the past Holliston members quit the committee at once and at this time there is No Agricultural Committee in Holliston
- Chairman Dempsey asked about Franklin getting SNAP and HIP process for Farmers Market. Franklin Chairman Trahan stated his daughter Lauren help set that up and she would be best to speak with. Chairman Trahan did state that Dean Bank helped with matching donation up to \$10 on each SNAP card and also received help from CMAP.

- Chairman Dempsey suggested to getting back to doing joint meetings quarterly and suggested possibly a October 30th date or early November date ie: recap of the year. Chairman Dempsey will extend an invite to Medway town farmers.

Franklin updates:

- Chairman Trahan invited local farmers to their previous meetings to get suggestions / help requests with the smaller local farmers. Member Koshivas mentioned working on a Rooster by-law issues ie: 5 acres requirements is a large amount of land for this area and is not normal requirement considering available land size.
- Member Morse would like if town allowed signs with what they have in stock at their farms and the farmer would pay for it.
- The Sign committee is currently working on a Branding by-law signs to direct places of interest throughout town
- Franklin Board Members liked the Medway Harvest Hop idea re: maps, completion stickers and would look into doing something similar to help promote Franklin Farms.
- Franklin Farmers Market special event dates; Opening day is June 2nd, Zucchini Races August 18th and on October 27th will have the Pumpkin weight competition. The Conservation Committee will be holding an Earth day on April 21 at Del Cartes.

Next meeting for Medway Board Committee members will be in April with location: TBD.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Franklin Chairman Board Trahan and seconded by Medway Chairman Board Dempsey and approved unanimously.

The board adjourned at 8:35M.

Respectfully submitted,

Ashley Bemis,
Meeting Recording Secretary