

**Town of Medway
Agricultural Committee
Medway Public Library, Historical Room
26 High Street, Medway MA 02053**

MINUTES OF MEETING

June 21, 2017

Present: Chairman Paul Atwood; Secretary Margaret Perkins; and pending Board Member Allison Dempsey.

Chairman Atwood called the meeting to order at 7:37 PM.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes:

A motion to accept the agenda for the meeting of June 21, 2017 with a minor date change was made by Ms. Perkins, seconded by Chairman Atwood and approved unanimously.

A motion to accept the minutes of May 17, 2017 as submitted was made by Ms. Perkins, seconded by Chairman Atwood and approved unanimously.

Citizen Comments:

No citizens present.

Old Business:

- A. New Board Members: Ms. Dempsey has submitted a letter and resume to Allison Potter, Assistant Town Administrator, indicating that she would like to serve as a Board Member of the Agricultural Committee. She will attend the next Board of Selectmen meeting to officially become a member.
- B. Updates on Chapter 61 land in Medway- Chairman Atwood checked with The Assessor's Office and no changes have been made since 2016 when he last obtained property cards and list of all Chapter 61 properties in town. There are approximately 32 Chapter 61 properties in Medway. Ms. Dempsey volunteered to draft a letter on behalf of the Board which will be mailed to land owners. The purpose of the letter will be to inform property owners of the existence and mission statement of the Agricultural Committee, introduce and provide contact information for Board Members, establish a network for the town's farming community, and provide an avenue for owners to raise any issues or concerns. Board Members plan on following up by phone or in person once letters have been mailed out. Chairman Atwood will contact Board of Selectmen in regard to receiving funding for mailing costs.

New Business:

- A. Holliston Community Farm Festival- Ms. Perkins attended and noted that it was a successful event and perhaps a framework that we can adapt in Medway. In addition to music, booths, and other family activities, local farmers gave talks in their area of expertise.
- B. Massachusetts Association of Agricultural Commissions Boot Camp on Animal Health, Regulations, and Resources-discussion of Bill H441, "The Livestock Care and Standards Board" (June 21, 2017) - held tonight to discuss the Bill and create a strategy to push back on committee that has been proposed.
- C. Medway Day, July 15th: Ms. Dempsey noted that she will have a table set up for Medway Community Farm and is happy to represent the Agricultural Committee as well during this event.
- D. September 1st: Festival at the Community Farm. The Medway Community Farm is hoping to partner with Holliston Community Farm and follow a similar format to the Holliston Community Farm Festival. Chairman Atwood agreed to give a talk about blueberry farming during this event.

Upcoming Meetings:

July 12, 2017 at 7:30 PM.

Adjournment:

The Board adjourned at 8:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Filipa LeClair

Meeting Recording Secretary