

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

MINUTES OF MEETING

July 20, 2016

Present: Chairman Paul Atwood and Secretary Margaret Perkins.

Chairman Paul Atwood called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes:

The agenda for the meeting of July 20, 2016 was approved unanimously.

A motion to accept the minutes from June 8, 2016 as submitted was made by Ms. Perkins and approved unanimously.

Ms. Perkins noted that the agenda and approved minutes were posted on the Town of Medway Agricultural Committee page. Agenda was also sent to Bob Tucker who is the liaison.

Citizen Comments:

No citizens present.

Update on Chapter 61:

No update. Chairman Atwood indicated that he has been extremely busy with his blueberry farm and has not had the opportunity to look into this further.

Work plan/Prioritize issues:

A. Medway Farmer's Market:

Chairman Atwood suggested looking into the Medway Farmer's Market. He will visit the market prior to the next meeting to find out some information. Points of interest are as follows:

- How many people attend
- How many farmers contribute
- How many farmers/contributors are from Medway

B. Medway Community Farm:

- Chairman Atwood stated that the Medway Community Farm has updated their farm stand with a more robust building.
- Ms. Perkins mentioned that she plans on organizing a tour of the Community Farm as part of the STEM grant she received.

- Chairman Atwood further noted that trail signs at the Community Farm are being worked on and their crops seem to be doing well despite the dry conditions.
- C. Recruitment of additional committee members:
Ms. Perkins noted that she met a local bee keeper that expressed an interest in sitting on the Board. She will follow up.
- D. Agricultural Zoning Bylaws:
Ms. Perkins inquired about the status of the proposed Agricultural Zoning Bylaws. Chairman Atwood said he will check and see if they have been approved at the state level.
- E. Embryology Club
 - Ms. Perkins ran a 6 week Embryology Club which was part of a STEM Grant and collaboration with the 4H Club.
 - 66 children attended over the 6 week period.
 - The children studied embryology hands-on and had 16 chicks hatch.
 - Will plan on running the club again next summer.

New Business:

- A. Holliston Agricultural Commission
Ms. Perkins noted that the resignation of Board Members of the Holliston Agricultural Commission seems to have been a result of conflicts between bee keepers in Holliston and somewhat of a personal matter that had occurred over several years.
- B. Ms. Perkins stated that it may be interesting to visit the Southeast Massachusetts Homesteaders Group. It is a large network and they are in the process of building a slaughter house. They recently had a Board meeting that was open to the public.
- C. Farm Assessment Survey
Ms. Perkins stated that it has been somewhat difficult to conduct a survey of local farms. She has recently met a lot of people that raise chickens.

Upcoming Meetings:

August 24, 2016

Adjournment:

The Board adjourned at 7:54 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Filipa LeClair

Meeting Recording Secretary