

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

MINUTES OF MEETING

October 18, 2017

Present: Chairman Paul Atwood, Co-Chairman Bruce Hamblin, Secretary Margaret Perkins, and Board Member Mike Kassel.

Chairman Atwood called the meeting to order at 7:31 PM.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes:

Chairman Atwood added the following item to the agenda: Discussion with Selectman Glenn Trindade.

Ms. Perkins noted that there is a new process for posting the agenda for meetings.

A motion to accept the agenda for the meeting of October 18, 2017 as amended was made by Mr. Hamblin, seconded by Mr. Kassel and approved unanimously.

A motion to accept the minutes of September 13, 2017 as submitted was made by Ms. Perkins, seconded by Mr. Hamblin and approved unanimously.

Citizen Comments:

No citizens present.

Old Business:

- A. Updates on Chapter 61 land in Medway- All letters have been sent.
- B. Status on Introductions to Chapter 61 Landowners- Mr. Hamblin asked about the types of questions he should be asking when meeting with landowners. Chairman Atwood suggested that board members not get too inquisitive about operational or financial issues, simply keep things general and allow the conversation to flow from there. Chairman Atwood interviewed one landowner earlier and the framework that he used was to ask about what is currently being done at the farm and he also inquired about future plans. The main issues presented by the landowner centered around declining health and ability to maintain the farm as well as financial hardships that make servicing equipment difficult. Chairman Atwood urged board members to follow up with landowners as soon as possible.
- C. Discussion with Selectman Glenn Trindade- Chairman Atwood had a conversation with the Selectman who expressed interest in trying to help the town of Medway retain its agricultural character. To that end, Mr. Trindade would like to get the town to help farmers in need and mentioned the possibility of having a storefront for local agricultural items. Mr. Trindade hopes to attend an Agricultural Committee meeting soon to further discuss his ideas.

- D. Medway Community Farm Festival- Several board members attended. Chairman Atwood's talk about blueberry farm was well received. Lots of families attended the festival and enjoyed the animals and tractor rides. Ms. Perkins suggested that this committee have a larger presence during this event next year.
- E. Medway Farmer's Market- Medway Community Farm is currently participating in the Norfolk Farmer's Market on Saturday mornings. Chairman Atwood hopes that board members can contact organizers from the Medway Farmer's Market over the winter to brainstorm ideas about improving farmer participation as well as public attendance for next season.
- F. AgCom Boot Camp- Chairman Atwood and Ms. Perkins attended the talk and reported that about 20 people were present. The speaker was a state veterinarian and spoke about animal health regulations, particularly noting that most of the regulations in place are vague and only guidelines for best practices. Work is being done to make regulations more specific and in line with common, established practices. A common issue is that town animal inspectors are appointed to their positions without having knowledge or experience about common animal practices.

New Business:

- A. None

Next Meeting:

November 15, 2017 at 7:30 PM.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Hamblin, seconded by Ms. Perkins and approved unanimously.

The Board adjourned at 8:38 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Filipa LeClair

Meeting Recording Secretary