

Town of Medway
Agricultural Committee
Medway Council of Aging Building
Medway, MA 02053

Minutes of Meeting

June 24, 2019

Medway Present: Chairman Paul Atwood, Secretary Margaret Perkins, Board Members Alison Dempsey, Bruce Hamblin.

Additional Towns and Members: Grace Kilkelly - Holliston, Pj Kilkelly – Holliston, Carrie Marsh – Holliston, Cherie Hafford – Holliston. Jeff Perry – Franklin, Melaine Hamblen – Franklin, Ed & Marian Szymanski – Franklin, Roger Trahan – Franklin, Emily Hamlin – Franklin, Carly Fisher – Franklin.

Meeting called to order at 7:03PM by Franklins Carly Fisher.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes:

Joint town meeting and May minutes will be approved during the July Medway meeting.

Citizens comment:

N/A

New Business

Franklin Member Carly fisher asked if Medway had any update on their Right to Farm which Medway Chairman Atwood replied “Yes Medway passed the right to farm and the notification section was removed from the finalized by law”.

All Agricultural Committees were in agreement that there is a need within the communities to use social media and face to face networking within the area to connect people with additional farms.

Holliston member Pj Kilkelly stated Town of Medway uses facebook, social media, local campaigning every week to help promote business for local farms and updated Agricultural information. Town of Franklin has started doing quarterly newsletter thru local chamber, along with signs to help promote pollination and not allowing to be cut/mow down near the elementary school. Also this restriction stopping it to be cut down is also helping to promote butterflies. Since this campaign started It has been a large over whelming town response including people from other states emailing on facebook on how they did it. Franklin suggest to educate population and why the needs are needed no spray no mow zone. Also the Town of Franklin bought a pound of milk weed seeds for local farms and gave out to people around right town.

Carly Fisher did bring up that they had a very successful turn out for the Franklin strawberry festival agricultural committee attended and showed festival goers how to successfully plant zucchini seeds

Franklin members asked if surrounding town members have noticed an increase in drones flying over farms and what time of the day. Franklin residents have reported seeing them at night and don't know who it is thought they have an idea who it might be.

Carly Fisher stated that Franklin is wanting to start a farm day reach out program to local farms, open houses, local church did pop up at church with smaller farms for public on the 2nd Sunday of June. Town of Holliston list farms with map and addresses and all are open at same time ie:10am-4pm have usually consist of 10-12 farms. Holliston member mentioned to Franklin they would need to start right now with planned seasonal farmers ie: blueberries, tomatoes and few other fruits and start marketing it now so they have a large hype and successful 2020 season.

Franklin had a local high school print up booklets after gathering different information from farmers thru out the town for people who over 7 acres in which they only heard back from 1 person. Discussion of open space board was brought up and Medway informed other members that they do have it..

Member PJ Kilkelly from Holliston has CPA of about 3,000 acres of open space... Holliston has APR farms.

Linda from Linda Tomatoes and Ginnetty from Ginnetty blueberries are currently not on franklin farm booklet because they are no open in time due to the delay of their produce because of past weather.

Medway will hold next Joint Town meeting at Thayer house in Medway on October 23rd at 7PM.

New Meeting:

The next Town of Medway meeting will be held on Wednesday June 24, 2019 7:00PM at the Medway counsel of aging.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Franklin member Carly Fisher seconded by Medway member PJ Kilkelly and approved unanimously.

The board adjourned at 8:00PM

Respectfully submitted,

Ashley Bemis

Meeting Recording Secretary