

Town of Medway  
Agricultural Committee  
Thayer House  
Medway, MA 02053

Minutes of Joint Town Meeting

October 23, 2019

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

Additional Towns and Members:

Holliston: Pj Kilkelly – Holliston, Carrie Marsh – Holliston, Shawn Murphy – Holliston.

Franklin: Ed (Guest) & Marian Szymanski – Franklin, Carly Fisher – Franklin.

Boxford: Laura Sapienza-Grabski from Massachusetts Association of Agricultural Commissions (MAAC)

Meeting called to order at 7:34PM by Medway Chairman Atwood

**Approval of Agenda and Minutes:**

Joint town meeting and Medway's September minutes will be approved during the November meeting.

**Citizens comment:**

N/A

**Old Business**

Joint meeting was started by Chairman Atwood reviewing Medway's recent town highlights.

- Town of Medway passed their right to farm by laws. New Banners for A Right to farm were posted around town on telephone poles which MAAC guest member Laura Sapienza-Grabski expressed a positive feedback for the banners. Chairman Atwood informed the joint towns that Medway had a successful Farmers Market this year with the new location in Choate Park and the Committee received very positive feedback from town residents. MAAC Member Laura asked how many farms participated in the Farmers Market. Medway member Alison answered 2 local farms which include items that were sold such as homemade soap and etc. MAAC member Laura suggested to bring in more commercial famers but reminded members of Food Safety Moderations Act and have Farmer document their foods due to any issues and stated that the Act will start to be phased into Farmer Markets in the forthcoming future.
- Chairman Atwood stated that he applied for a Cultural Grant for Farm Day in 2020 after seeing a successful event day take place in Holliston while attending 2 farms during their Farm Day.

Chairman Atwood asked Committee members of other towns to give some highlights of their towns since the last joint meeting.

Chairman Kilkelly discussed the following highlights for the Town of Holliston:

- Holliston had a great Farm Day in which 7 Farms participated on their own properties during the event this past summer which also included pop up tents with 10 vendors including a Holliston Town booth. The Agricultural Committee as updated and remodeled their town website along with a new updated newsletter. Town of Holliston was also being featured on a Chronicle special for their Butterflies. A grant of \$1,000 was approved for the Garden Club. Member Grace Kilkelly helped set up a successful Incubator for hatchings at the town library. The Agricultural Committee is working with the open space committee to help preserve 29 Acres of land on Highland Street.

Chairman Fisher discussed the following highlights for the Town of Franklin:

- Town of Franklin hosted the Annual Strawberry Harvest Stroll festival in the center of town which the Agricultural Committee had a tent. There was a competition event for kids to make a racing car out of zucchini for a race and also gave out plant seeds. Also the Committee sent out letters to possible Chapter 61 and has only received 1 response back which would be categorized as a 61B. The Pollinator patch in front of the sports fields and was a success and had positive feedback from residents. There were a few hiccups in the Pesticide Opt out date with residents and town DPW but have been resolved for next year. Agricultural Committee has started putting together a plan to have a Farm Day on the Common during the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration and will put more together to bring forward to the Town Meetings for review and Approvals. It was also noted that since January 2019 the Town of Franklin has lost 2 farms.

### **New News:**

Medway Chairman Atwood asked if there's any other new news that they would like to discuss with joint towns. Holliston Chairman Kilkelly asked if any towns had any updates on EEE threat with horses as Holliston had 2 horses die from EEE. Franklin Chairman Fisher stated she found information on a recent study that there is a form of Lyme Disease that is causing Parkinson's Disease and looking into it more with horses as well.

MAAC member Laura did inform Committees that next year will be the 10-year anniversary MAAC and will be having an event on February 22, 2020 at the Holiday Inn Hotel in Marlboro MA. In attendance will be UMASS Amherst Scientist and additional Agricultural Committees. Tickets will be \$35 with a meal included. Laura will be accepting help with obtaining email addresses for anyone interested so she can add them to a group email with more details to follow.

Franklin Chairman Fisher mentioned there are some rules about drones in the works as she experienced an issue recently and found the owner of the drone that was flying feet over her head and her horses on her property.

MAAC member Laura thanked the committee members for inviting her to the joint committee meeting and looks forward to attending another one at a later date.

**New Meeting:**

The next joint meeting will be held by the Town of Holliston on March 10, 2020 at 7:00PM at the Town Hall.

**Adjournment:**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Medway Chairman member Atwood and seconded by Medway member PJ Kilkelly and approved unanimously.

**The board adjourned at 9:00PM**

Respectfully submitted,

Ashley Bemis

Meeting Recording Secretary