

Agricultural Commission Minutes from 7/15/20

Attendance: Peter Hawkes, Jane Bellville, Ellen Gould, Zach Pelc, Anne Mazar, Mark Manoogian, Michelle Manoogian, Larry Person.

Call to order: 7:01

1. Review of Commission members 2020-21: Peter continues to be the Chairperson of the committee. Jane, Peter D., and Peter H. remain seated until 2022, Ellen G. reappointed until 2023. One vacancy.
 - a. Vacancy: Zach Pelc expressed an interest in joining the commission and plans to send in a request to the Select Board. The Ag. Comm members will follow-up with a letter of recommendation to the Select Board.
2. Manoogian Farm: Anne M. led the discussion. Members had received the Farm Plan for Mark Manoogian, Cedar Hill Farm (CHF) at 43 Quissette Rd. Mendon.
 - a. Suggestions included the CHF Festival as an annual event and to acknowledge the intent to contact the Town of Mendon if any plans develop to change the Conservation restrictions at the site.
 - b. Ann offered to work with the Mark and Michelle to edit the current plan.
 - c. The Ag Com voted to pass the CHF Conservation Plan with the above changes included.
3. Unexpected topics:
 - a. EEE: Jane voiced concern about the immediately threat of EEE to the local community. The group felt that a notice could be placed on the Town of Mendon's Ag. Comm. Page on the Notices section with a link to the States of MA information regarding EEE. Ellen volunteered to follow-up with this.
 - b. Discussion of a Revolving Account for the Ag. Com. It was felt that a Revolving Account with funds raised by the Ag. Comm. Would be helpful for future outreach to the Town Residents about what the role of the Ag. Comm is and how it can help residents. Michelle offered to contact the Town about opening such an account.
4. Thank you to Tom Merolli for getting the SB to remove the excise tax of farm animals in the Town.
5. Adjourn: Date for the next Ag. Comm. Meeting is scheduled for 9/16/20 @ 7 pm
Motion to adjourn at 7:37 pm.