



Agricultural Commission

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WINCHENDON TOWN CLERK
RCUD MAR 6 2024 PM 1:58

Winchendon Agricultural Commission – Minutes November 8th, 2023

Members Present: Sherry Haley, Janet Lee, Jordyn Lynds, Emma Rivet

Lynds called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M.

Reorganization – Positions of chair and members reviewed. Lynds shared two handouts; I. Creating an Agricultural Commission and II. Established Agricultural Commissions. Material relevant as there are newer members and important as we continue the discussion of the role of the commission in respects to the towns' master plan. Emma Rivet agreed to take notes for the next meeting and subsequent meetings.

Member Comments – Discussed sponsored FSMA Training Hosted by MDAR (Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources) and MAA (Montachusett Agricultural Alliance). Registration is already closed. As future opportunities arise, we will look at promoting resources for farmers. Lynds had met with Cassandra from Animal Control (Livestock inspector) Reviewed prior history with the Commission and Animal Control with wayward animal issues. The title "Livestock Inspector" is paid by the state, not the town. Cassandra is willing to work with us to update inventory of active farms in Winchendon.

Minutes – Haley moved to approve minutes of September 20th, 2023, seconded by Rivet. Motion passed 4-0.

Old Business – Winchendon's Farmer's Market – Market Season is over. Rivet reviewed information researched for SNAP/HIP set up. We would need a Tablet or similar device to run the program and have a data plan. \$191 for the Application. Application process will take several months. Lynds will obtain financial balance of account to ensure funds available for initial purchase. Lynds will also reach out to Ayn and Minna from Growing Places about SNAP and any assistance/grants/funding for continuance.

New Business – Rivet discussed a Farmers Market Sustainability Grant, Due NOV 29th, \$10,000 Max. Funding could be used for advertisement, hiring of market manager, training, certificates ect.

Motion to adjourn made by Lee, seconded by Haley. Motion passed 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:01 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Jordyn Lynds, Chair

Minutes approved on 2/7/24 by:

Janet Lee Tubman Sherry Haley