



## **TOWN OF ACTON AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION**

**Meeting Minutes 25 Jan, 2022**

**6:00 PM**

**Virtual Meeting**

**Present:** Morene Bodner, Joe Hebert, Peggie Hebert, Heidi Porten, Paul Simeone

Natural Resources Assistant, Zoom host, and Recording Secretary: Bettina Abe

Attendees: Acton Conservation Trust President Susan Mitchell-Hardt, Joe Will, Andrea Becerra  
Acton Sustainability Director

**Absent:** Patrick Hearn

**Regular Business:**

**Heidi convened the meeting at 6:03 PM**

**The virtual meeting advisory was read in its entirety**

**1. Andrea Becerra- Acton Sustainability Director**

Andrea outlined the plan to have an Arbor day activity on April 29<sup>th</sup> and asked for inputs on what the Ag Comm might be able to present.

- Morene and Heidi felt that this event would be an opportunity to make Acton Ag Comm activities more public
- Ideas of what the Ag Comm might present included an Acton Farm Map Poster and a poster of the Community Gardens.
- Andrea asked if we had an interest in presenting on composting and Moreen described her Farm's considerable activities in this area.
- Susan Mitchell Hardt mentioned that Concord's activities in composting, the Concord Agricultural Day where all farmers showed examples of their produce, panel discussions with Local farmers and farm posters were all examples of outreach we could incorporate in our own Acton farm descriptions. The link to these posters at the Concord Land Conservation Trust website is:  
[https://concordland.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/FarmersAndFields\\_2021.pdf](https://concordland.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/FarmersAndFields_2021.pdf)
- Susan also mentioned there is a significant story to tell about how many groups came together to support the Stone Field Farm preservation.
- Bettina added to the above discussion by suggesting we collect all wares from Acton Farms and show them on display. This would include compost samples.

Andrea mentioned there would be another opportunity to present Ag Comm Activities at the Nara Park Climate Action event tentatively scheduled for May 21<sup>st</sup> or May 28<sup>th</sup>.

The outcome of the above discussion was that the Ag comm would like to participate in both the Arbor day and the Climate Action event and can provide materials on the topics discussed above. Ag Comm and Adrea will be in communications as plans solidify.

**2. Citizen's Concerns**

There were no citizen concerns reported

**3. Approval of the 28 Dec, 2021 meeting minutes:**

Minutes were unanimously approved by roll call vote.

**4. Expanded Protection for The Morrison Farm Property**

A Feb 8<sup>th</sup> meeting date is set with John Mangiaratti, Town Manager; Andrea Becerra, Sustainability Director; Julie Pierce Onos, Economic Director; Bettina and Moreen to discuss the plan to create a Conservation or Agricultural Restriction for Morrison Farm and preserve the House and Barn.

**5. New Property in Consideration**

There is property in closed discussion but not yet ready to discuss publicly. Susan did mention she will be sending a letter to the new owners of Stoneymeade Farm to welcome them to Acton. It appears the land will continue to be a horse farm.

**6. Comprehensive Agricultural Plan**

Heidi has set up Google docs for all of the plan topics, per Paul's outline, and has confirmed each of us has access. Names have been added to the topics section title. Paul suggested that next meeting we also discuss what might be included from Middlesex Conservation District Long Range Plan.

**7. Walking Trail Extension to Stonefield Farm**

**8. Feb 22 2022 Meeting Agenda**

Reading of Virtual Meeting Advisory

1. Kate Despres – Owner/Manager Daisy Hill Farm
2. Citizen's Concerns
3. Approval of Jan 25<sup>th</sup> minutes
4. Extended Protection for Morrison Farm
5. New Property in Consideration
6. Next Steps Regarding Stonefield Farm Walking Trail
7. Comprehensive Agricultural Plan
8. Next Meeting Agenda

**The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 PM**

**Linked relevant documents and meeting materials can be found in the Agricultural Commission's page on the Town website or through the following link. <http://doc.acton-ma.gov/dsweb/View/Collection-12706>**