



TOWN OF ACTON AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes 25 Oct, 2022

6:00 PM

Virtual Meeting

Present: Morene Bodner, Patrick Hearn, Peggie Hebert, Joe Hebert, Heidi Porten

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

Attendees: Acton Conservation Trust President Susan Mitchell-Hardt, Acton Conservation Agent Mike Gendron

Absent: Paul Simeone

Regular Business:

Heidi convened the meeting at 6:02 PM

The virtual meeting advisory was read in its entirety

1. Citizen's Concerns

There were no citizen concerns reported.

2. Approval of the Sep 27th, 2022 meeting minutes:

Heidi asked if the Sep 27th draft meeting minutes required any corrections or additions. None were given so the minutes will be posted as written.

3. New Property in Consideration

Susan Mitchell-Hardt reported that she will be asking Acton Conservation Trust Board to consider whether the 1.5 acres of Pasture land abutting the Isacc Davis Trail at 151 Strawberry Hill Rd should be considered a priority parcel. She also reported that Triangle Farm abutting Camp Acton and Spring Hill Conservation lands is in discussion.

4. Follow up with Kristen Guichard/Planning Dept on transfer of development rights and other ways to protect farmland from fragmentation.

Pat reported that he had talked with Kristen Guichard as a follow up to her presentation to Ag Comm on use of transfer of development rights. Kristen is open to the idea of multiple town groups such as Conservation and Ag Comm working in collaboration with the Planning department to preserve larger parcels without fragmentation. She will talk with her staff and others on who the collaboration should include and how this collaboration should be done and get back to us.

5. Morrison Farm Protection

Morene pointed out that Morrison Farm is still unprotected and that she will be organizing a trip to the property with a Barn Restoration expert to get an assessment of the viability and

cost of repairing the barn for future town use. This information would be helpful in next steps towards proposing a CR or APR for this property. Pat will keep Morrison Farm Protection on the agenda until this topic is completed.

6. Comprehensive Ag Plan Progress

Pat commented that he would soon have more time for the Acton Comprehensive Agricultural Plan and that perhaps a good next step would be to start assembling the draft per Paul's general outline, agricultural references within the Acton 2020 plan, OSRP and Bettina's outline so that all could use this structure for group review and iterate until a mature draft is available for circulation to other Acton town groups for their input. The ongoing iterations of the plan will be posted in the shared Google folder. The group agreed with this approach.

7. Ag Comm Logo and other Presentation Materials

Various logo concepts were discussed. The outcome of this discussion was that Paul's Plow picture would be the best logo because it is simple and immediately relates to agriculture. Pat will send Paul's picture to Bettina who will add finishing touches. In this discussion the group also agreed that Peggy and Joe Hebert's photo collage would be an excellent cover for an Ag Comm Brochure. Susan Mitchell Hardt provided examples of The Acton Conservation Trust Brochure and the Lincoln Ag Comm Brochure that has text and pictures to explain the mission and goals of these groups. Joe and Peggy agreed to review these documents and add text and pictures as necessary to describe the Ag Comm Goals and Operation and arrive at a complete brochure. There was also discussion regarding business cards with a QR code link that Ag Comm members could use to steer interested parties to an Ag Comm Website.

8. Hybrid Ag Comm Meeting

Several members of the Ag Comm would like to have a hybrid meeting so Bettina will book a room at town hall to make this possible. Pat will show the hybrid meeting structure on the agenda to inform the public.

9. Nov 22nd Meeting Agenda

Reading of Virtual Meeting Advisory

1. Citizen's Concerns
2. Approval of Oct 25thth minutes
3. New Property in Consideration
4. Morrison Farm discussion
5. Ag Comm Logo, Brochure, and Ag Comm Event Posters
6. Comprehensive Agricultural Plan
7. Meeting Agenda for Dec 27th

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:06 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>