



TOWN OF ACTON AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes Dec 26th, 2023

6:00 PM

Hybrid Meeting: Zoom and in person at Town Hall Room 9

Present: Morene Bodner, Patrick Hearn, Joe Hebert, Hedi Porten

Ian Bergemann Land Stewardship Coordinator

Attendees: Fran Arsenault Acton Select Board Liaison, Susan Mitchell-Hardt Acton Conservation Trust, Bettina Abe

Regular Business:

Heidi convened the meeting at 6:05 PM

1. Citizen's Concerns None reported

2. Approval of Nov 28th meeting minutes

The minutes were approved unanimously as written

3. Morrison Farm CR Update

The Morrison Farm CR version 6A was discussed. Revision 6A requires 2 changes. One to exclude the reference to the chicken coop which is not within the CR area, and one to change the wording relating to use of pesticide from OMRI listed to the town policy used for control in sensitive areas. In this way we encourage use of a uniform town policy and reference a living policy, under much more town control, rather than a national policy that may be subject to changes not under our control. Ian will draft the changes, communicate with Pete Westover who will incorporate the changes and issue a new revision. This will then be presented at first opportunity to the Select Board. The goal is to take the new Morrison Farm CR to the 2024 Town meeting.

4. Comprehensive Ag Plan Update

Additional inputs received from Bettina. Placing these and other inputs received is presently being incorporated and should be ready for our Jan meeting. Hopefully citations and references will be included by the Feb meeting so the document can then be released.

5. Non-resident Ag Comm Members

The issue of having a limited number of ag comm associate members being non-residents, provided they are actively farming in Acton was discussed. Wording was chosen for a Select Board request to change the Ag Comm Charter to allow this was discussed and then Summarized by Heidi. Ian will write the precise wording for Fran Arsenault who will make the request to be on the next Select Board agenda.

6. Farmers Meeting

Morene reported the Dec 5th initial farmer's meeting was well attended by a variety of farmers, Ag Comm members, OSC and ACT members. The Acton Ag Properties Summary Poster was displayed, Ag comm pamphlets were distributed and more than hour of lively, small group,

conversation was enjoyed by all. We all agreed this will be a worthwhile support building and communication event that we would like to hold annually.

7. New Property in Consideration

None reported..

8. Jan 23rd 2024 Meeting Agenda

Reading of Virtual Meeting Advisory

1. Citizen's Concerns
2. Approval of Dec 26th 2023 minutes
3. Morrison Farm CR update and next steps
4. Ag Plan Update
5. Request for 2 non Acton resident associate commissioners
6. Farmers Meeting
7. New Property in Consideration
8. Membership in Mass Association of Ag Comms
9. Meeting Agenda for Feb 27th 2024

Morene called for a motion to adjourn. Pat made a motion to adjourn, Joe seconded and the motioned was approved unanimously at approximately 7:31 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>