



TOWN OF ACTON AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes November 25, 2025

6:00 PM

Hybrid Meeting: Zoom and in person at Town Hall Room 126

Present: Heidi Porten (chair), Kate Despres (co-chair), Bill Alstrom (clerk), Bettina Abe (virtually)

Ian Bergemann - Community Conservation Specialist

Fran Arsenault - Acton Select Board Liaison

Regular Business:

Heidi convened the meeting at 6:05 PM.

The hybrid meeting announcement was read in its entirety.

- 1) **Approval of the meeting minutes of October 22, 2025** – Kate made a motion to approve the minutes, Bill seconded. The minutes were unanimously accepted.
- 2) **Concerns from the Public** - None for this meeting
- 3) **Ian will invite Pete Westover** of the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture Resources to the next Ag Com meeting on December 23.
- 4) **Comprehensive Agricultural Plan** – Members voted unanimously to accept the plan after minor editing. **Next steps:**
Ian to update the farmland inventory, adjust dates, and add photos to enhance the product. He will share the final product with other appropriate boards and committees.
- 5) **Annual Farmers Meeting - Planned for January 29, 2026, 7:00 to 8:00 pm**
Ian will email invitations to all boards and committees and the Community Gardeners. Room 204 has been reserved. Further organizing to occur at the next Ag Com meeting.
- 6) **Morrison Farm Update** – Fran explained that there was a line item in the proposed Acton Capital Budget for 2027 referencing Morrison Farm. \$50,000 for a “Conceptual Design”. Fran to seek further clarification.

- 7) **Harvest Festival – Morrison Farm September 13, 2026** - Ian to assemble a framework to present to town officials.
- 8) **New Property in Consideration** – No new properties were considered.
- 9) **Acton's Ag Com has been invited to attend the Middlesex Conservation District Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Meeting** featuring a talk by Russ Cohen: "Nibbling on the Wild Landscape of Middlesex County." This meeting will be held in the Acton Town Hall on December 8, 2025.

Next Meeting Agenda (December 23):

Review and accept meeting minutes of November 25, 2025

Concerns from the Public

Comprehensive Agricultural Commission Plan

Farmers Meeting - January 29

Morrison Farm Update

Harvest Festival - September 13

New Property Consideration

Next Meeting Agenda

Bettina motioned to close the meeting at 6:54 PM. Kate seconded. The vote was unanimous.

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>