



TOWN OF ACTON AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes 9 Mar, 2021

6:00 PM

Virtual Meeting

Present: Morene Bodner, Patrick Hearn, Joe Hebert, Peggy 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 of Acton Open Space and Land Stewardship Committees.

Regular Business:

Heidi convened the meeting at 6:02 PM

1 The virtual meeting advisory was read in its entirety

2 Citizen's Concerns

There were no citizen concerns raised

3 Approval of the Feb 9 2021 Ag Comm meeting minutes

Morene moved to approve the Feb 9 minutes, Paul seconded. Minutes were unanimously approved by roll call vote.

4 Expanded Protection for The Morrison Farm Property

Morene reported that she has drafted a letter based on her work and Ag Comm discussions on preservation of the Morrison Farm Property. The letter will be sent to a number of town committees to propose a Morrison Farm CR and the creation of a 501C non-profit "Friends of Morrison Farm". The note explained the history of prior town discussions, what was learned and how this has led to what we now believe is the best overall solution to preserve the property and protect the attractive and historic value of the house and barn. The purpose of the note is to solicit input and to build a wide support base. Susan Mitchell-Hardt pointed out that she would need to get The Acton Conservation Trustees approval to hold the CR before the letter was sent and mentioned that the cost of a CR would be approximately \$14,000. Bettina will advise on which Town committees should be included on the distribution. Heidi asked for the commissioner's thoughts on sending the letter and received unanimous agreement to proceed once Susan Mitchell-Hardt has received approval from the ACT Trustees to hold the CR. The 2022 Town Meeting would be the target event for requesting approval.

5 Farm Signs

Pat reviewed the final draft of the town entrance farm signs request that will be presented to the BoS on March 15th. A similar draft proposal had been reviewed at a prior Ag Comm meeting and all remain in favor of proceeding with final proposal.

6 New Property in Consideration

Stonefield Farm proposal is expected to be presented to Acton Community Preservation Committee by Andy Magee of Acton Open Space Committee sometime in March.

7 Agricultural Plan Development

The Ag Comm agreed to review the Ag Plan outline and assign topics to individuals so that we can gather resource materials and begin to assemble our thoughts, as time permits, over our summer Ag Comm meeting adjournment. Pat will attach the outline to the draft 9 March meeting minutes distribution so the it will be readily available at our next meeting on the 13th of April.

8 April 9th 2021 Meeting Agenda

Virtual Meeting Advisory

1. Citizen's Concerns
2. Approval of Mar 9th minutes
3. Extended Protection for Morrison Farm
4. Farm Signs
5. New Property in Consideration
6. Ag Plan Development
7. Next Meeting Agenda

9 The meeting was adjourned at 6:49 PM

10 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>