



# TOWN OF BERKLEY MASSACHUSETTS

## AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

1 NORTH MAIN STREET  
BERKLEY, MA 02779

Board Meeting Minutes:  
6:00pm PLANNING BOARD Room

Agricultural Commission meeting of August 15, 2024

**Members present:** George Faria, Angela Young, Harry Harmon, Aaron Fernandes, Ed Harmon & Lisa Tetreault  
**Member absent:** Thomas Fernandes

**Meeting called to order** by George at 6:05pm

### **Accept Minutes of 7/18/24 meeting**

Members were provided a copy of the meeting minutes. Harry motions to accept the minutes as written, second by Aaron. Angela aye, Ed aye, George aye, Lisa aye. Unanimous vote.

### **Discuss ideas regarding By-Laws**

George, Lisa, Ed, Harry, Aaron read Bylaws, Conflict Resolution Procedure and conflict resolution form drafted and presented to them by Angela who drafted material by combining ideas from several surrounding towns and adopting ideas presented in the last meeting.

Angela presented a couple of questions/edits:

1. Section 3 there are two wording options discussing acquired land in relation to Ag and current zoning /legal laws etc. Ed made a motion to accept, "Moreover nothing in the Right to Farm By-law shall be deemed as acquiring interest in land. The protections contained in this by-law do not replace any applicable zoning or legal restrictions associated with agricultural operations." Harry second. Angela aye, Aaron aye, Lisa aye, George aye. Unanimous vote.
2. Section 5 question on what verbiage to accept for timeframe for resolution at the end of both paragraphs of the section. Ed motioned to adopt the addition of "not to exceed 30 days." Second Harry. Angela aye, Lisa aye, Aaron aye, George aye. Unanimous vote.
3. Conflict Resolution Procedure : Number 5. Question on the timeline given to provide appeal. Lisa suggested adding "business" to the 5 days. Angela motioned to accept. Ed second. George aye, Lisa aye, Aaron aye, Harry aye. Unanimous vote.
4. Verbiage question regarding timeline of Ag commissions response once acquiring a complaint as written at the bottom of the complaint form. Angela agrees to reword to include the fact that contact will be made once the Ag Commission receives the complaint not necessarily once the complaint is filed as it could go through other offices first. Angela will rewrite and present changes at next meeting.

George stressed the importance that the Bylaws need to be presented to the Selectmen soon at town meeting in order to give them time to send for review and put on the agenda for the special town meeting this fall.

Next selectmen meeting is in two weeks so board agreed to meet prior to the selectmen meeting so Bylaws

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can be voted upon. George agreed to present the bylaws to the Selectmen at their meeting. Angela will rewrite the bylaws with changes discussed and bring to next meeting.

Ed brought up the question on where to send someone when they go to him with a complaint for the Ag Comm. Lisa discussed that there should be a form online under the Ag comm page on the website. Lisa and George discussed the Ag Comm page already being up on the town website. Both will look into it. Bylaws and form will be on the website once they are voted in. Ed can send people to the town hall to obtain a form or can go online to print one out then file with the Clerk. Complaint will go to the appropriate department as it could be an issue with two or three departments not just the Ag Comm including but not limited to Zoning and BOH. This will all be available once the bylaws are voted upon and accepted.

**Public input:**

None

Having no further discussion, Ed made a motion to adjourn at 6:45pm, Aaron 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Next meeting will be August 22, 2024 at 6:00pm

*Angela Young RN*

8/15/24