



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 September 12, 2024

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

Meeting called to order by George at 6:11pm

Accept Minutes of 8/22/24 meeting

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

Update on Right to Farm proposal submission at last BOD meeting – George.

George updated that the bylaw proposal was submitted without any issues or questions. Proposal will likely be at the October meeting which is a new time and subject to change. Board will keep an eye on next meeting as it will be on the warrant by the selectman and if passed will be in town By-laws and Berkley will be Right to Farm.

Number of Ag Comm members/bylaw/mission statement

Discussion had regarding mission statement for Ag Comm. Mission statement is easier to change and amend than the bylaws so discussion was had to put on website so changes can be made easier. Lisa discussed that other towns have members, their rolls and their mission statement posted. Lisa provided some examples. Board was able to review examples and have a discussion on what likes and dislikes were. Board discussed looking at other mission statements in other towns to get ideas and bring to discussion at next meeting.

Discussion took turn into funding to buy land with question from Harry regarding funds to protect land in Berkley. Fundraisers were mentioned and Ag Comm t-shirts to sell etc. Angela mentioned Donation button on Ag Comm page. Lisa discussed the funds go into a town account for Ag Comm use only. Lisa will look into this further regarding the account, funds and donation button.

Public Input – Re: state resources/grants

Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) was brought up by a local resident, Stephen Murray, who rents 36 acres of land in town to farm. 31 of those acres are in danger of being sold. Lisa discussed that this land was chapter land. Town has first dibs on purchasing the land. Stephen asked if the town might be able to purchase with the aid of NRCS. George and Ed will go meet with Stephen before next meeting or invite him to the next meeting to discuss. Lisa mentioned that the state did give funding through grants and loans. More info is needed and will be discussed at the next meeting either with info from George and Ed or from Stephen himself.

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Public Input – other

Ed brought up the idea of fundraisers again. All to think more on fundraiser ideas.

Having no further discussion, Lisa made a motion to adjourn at 6:44pm, Ed 2nd.

Next meeting will be September 26, 2024 at 6:00pm

Minutes by: Angela Young

Angela Young RN