



# TOWN OF BERKLEY MASSACHUSETTS

## AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

1 NORTH MAIN STREET  
BERKLEY, MA 02779

Board Meeting Minutes:  
6:00pm Assessor's office

Agricultural Commission meeting February 27, 2025

**Members present:** George Faria, Angela Young, Ed Harmon, Lisa Tetreault, Aaron Fernandes. Harry Harmon late arrival 6:04pm.  
**Members absent:** Thomas Fernandes

**Meeting called to order** by George at 6:01pm

### **Accept Minutes of 2/6/25 meeting**

Members were provided a copy of the meeting minutes via email prior to the meeting. AppGeo spelling was corrected after Angela asked Lisa for the correct spelling of the app. Lisa motioned to accept the minutes as written with the addition of the spelling correction of ApGeo, second Aaron. All in favor. None opposed

### **Update on Soil Review**

Ed contacted the gentleman (Al) that had sent the email regarding the soil review as discussed last meeting. He uses an aerial photo of the town and sees what is farm land or potential farm land and investigates what soil is there to deem it soil of importance. Al was going to do this free of charge as he is working off of a grant to provide towns of MA with this resource. He was going to get started and two days later contacted Ed as the federal government put a freeze on the funds and he could not complete this task as his work was shut down. It would have taken Al about a month to complete. Al gave Ed some website info to check into that he has not looked into yet. Ed will follow up with those sites for next meeting. Angela asked if there was a possibility to continue if funds are unfrozen. Ed stated yes, he would continue if funds return.

### **Non-profit status**

George stated in order to continue a "Friends of Ag comm" needs to be elected and there needs to be at least three people appointed but more are better. George asked Aaron to speak with his sister Amy. Mary Ann Rapoza was mentioned by Lisa and George and Harry has a friend interested. Lisa stated that the candidate needs to contact George directly or contact Angela who will then pass their contact info to George. George did request they contact him directly to make it easier. The Ag Comm will need to set up the bylaws for this new committee. Nonprofit status cannot proceed until this committee is appointed and in place to handle the money. George will get a copy of the COA bylaws as an example. If other members have time they can look into the bylaws of other towns.

George stated that an attorney will cost \$3500 to complete a non-profit for the Ag Comm and the 1023 EZ form is more cost affective and can be done by Ag Comm members. George stated it is pretty straight forward.

Angela asked what positions are needed/called for the "friends". George stated There needs to be a Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. Anyone additional would be considered a member. Lisa stated it would be nice to have members as it would contribute to the quorum needed. The "friends" have to meet and keep minutes but not official. They need to provide updates. Aaron asked if a spreadsheet being updated and presented would be enough. Lisa state yes and that they only have to provide info when there is movement into or out of the account.

### **T-Shirts**

George stated he has the shirts. Lisa has seen them and stated they came out great. She will bring one to the next meeting. She said they are middle of the line and just right. George discussed that they cost the committee \$10 and that we ask for a \$15 donation. This way there is a little bit of extra donation for future use. Nothing can be decided until a non profit is in place. Lisa got two \$500 donations for the shirts, plaque and signs. Lisa made a motion that t-shirts be given to those that made the two big donations free of donation charge. Ed second. All in favor. None opposed.

### **Plaques**

George got some info on the plaques. Each plate will cost \$6 for two lines of engraving. The header as discussed at last meeting can be done for \$20 or can have it come already engraved. \$152 for the total plaque with or without engraving. Ag comm has enough donation money to order one plaque. Lisa said there was \$20 left from the shirt order and another \$500 from the second donation.

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\$520 total. \$152 for the plaque and remainder to purchase RTF signs. Question to buy a few signs at \$25 per sign then keep remainder of money at Amy's for future orders. Angela made a motion to purchase the one plaque. Lisa second. All in favor. None opposed.

Lisa asked then how many signs to order. Harry stated possibly 6 signs? Lisa did the math and there is \$218 remainder after the plaque order. George stated areas to be covered are Berkley St., Possibly the Berkley Bridge, S. Main and Rte. 79. Lisa proposed we leave the credit at Amy's. George asked what the cost of kid's shirts would be. Kids T-shirts would be possible with the remainder. George to find out the cost. Aaron suggested getting all sizes. Lisa made a motion to order 6 signs from Amy. Ed second. All in favor. None opposed. This will bring our total to 7 signs as Lisa and George have already had one made with their own funds. Lisa spoke to the town admin about hanging the plaque in the town hall. He recommended that when the plaque is ready to hang that we get it on the agenda at a BOS meeting, present the sign, and get their permission to display in town hall. Lisa made a motion that the two donors can each have a plate on the plaque in memory of their love one of whom the donation was made. Ed second. All in favor. None opposed. Lisa will reach out to the donors and bring an index card for them to write exactly what they'd like the plate to state. Aaron stated that we need to first find out how many characters are allowed on each of the two lines. Harry suggested making an order form once things are ready to move forward. George will place the order for the signs and plaque with Amy King.

### **FB page update**

Everything seems to be working well so we can start to post and share. Suggestions from Lisa were made to have a photo of the month of a pet. Ed suggested maybe a what you should plant in your garden.

### **Public Input – none**

Harry motioned to end the meeting at 6:42pm. Aaron second. All in favor, none opposed. Next meeting to be 2.13.25 in the assessor's office.

**Minutes by: Angela Young**

*Angela Young RN*