

Town of Bridgewater Massachusetts

Agricultural Commission

Meeting Minutes: April 25, 2017

1. Call To Order 7:38 pm
2. Designation of Minute Taker- Lori Tunewicz-Gavin
3. Roll Call/ Introduction of those Present
 - a. Brian Alves x
 - b. David Anderson x
 - c. Lori Tunewicz-Gavin x
4. Read Previous Meeting Notes- approved as read
5. Approval of Agenda-approved as read
6. Public Comments- Reserved Time for Items Listed on Agenda-no public attended
7. Read Any Communications-Communications from the Town Clerk regarding mosquito spraying.
8. Reports of Any Sub Committees
 - a. There are none at this time
9. Unfinished Business
 - a. Continue in establishing a procedure for dealing with agricultural complaints. (ongoing process)
 - i. Obtain description of complaint and details
 - ii. Determine course of action which may include:
 1. Drive by
 2. Visit/inspection and documentation (this may be initiated by an introductory visit, leaving a brochure about the agricultural commission, its mission and the reason for the visit.)
 3. Bring back findings to the next meeting.
 - b. Update on Agricultural Commission Brochure (Brian): Brian will continue to work on this
 - c. Research updates:
 - i. State Agricultural Law (ongoing process)
 1. The commission decided to begin to look at state decisions/lawsuits involving agriculture through Google Scholar to help increase our knowledge of Massachusetts state agricultural laws and precedents.
 - ii. Statutory Supreme court decisions regarding roosters and other hot topics (ongoing process)
 - iii. Manure regulations (ongoing process)
 - d. Annual Agricultural Day

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- i. State House, Tuesday April 4, 2017-members were not able to get to this event.

10. New Business

- a. Discuss plans for any new complaints
- b. Discuss new information to on-going agenda items
- c. Discuss any new Agricultural issues.
 - i. Middleboro Ag Com recent domestic livestock issue-Middleboro's regulation proposal was tabled due to public protest and concern.
 - ii. The commission talked about assembling and compiling safe egg handling procedures document to post on the website and the brochure.
 - iii. The commission briefly discussed raw milk sale prohibition in the town.
 - iv. Common household pets and diseases that they carry was brought up and the commission entertained offering comparisons regarding these issues vs. livestock disease issues.
 - v. Abington has proposed livestock regulations recently. Commission to follow up.
- d. Next Meeting Date
 - i. May 23, 2017. 7:30pm Academy Building

11. Public Comments- no public comments.

12. Miscellaneous

13. Closed Session

14. Return to Open Session

15. Adjournment-8:55 pm