

Town of Bridgewater Massachusetts

Agricultural Commission

Meeting Minutes: June 27, 2017

1. Call To Order 7:39 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 with addition of discussion of use of sewer sludge for residential or agricultural application.
6. Public Comments- Reserved Time for Items Listed on Agenda-no public attended
7. Read Any Communications-
 - a. Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources: letter was sent to Mike Spagone thanking the town for having an agricultural commission member attend the last MDAR meeting. Dave Anderson attended.
 - b. Massachusetts Association of Agricultural Commissions: Brian Alves was sent an email by MAAC. He reviewed the email with the commission.
8. Reports of Any Sub Committees
 - a. There are none at this time
9. Unfinished Business
10. Continue in establishing a procedure for dealing with agricultural complaints. (ongoing process) (this procedure which will be amended as needed will be entered in a Bridgewater Agricultural Commission Guideline Handbook)
 - a.
 - 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)

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11. New Business

- a. Discuss plans for any new complaints
 - i. visit times
 - ii. who is going
- b. Show brochure if complete: brochure is not yet complete.
- c. Discuss any research made from State Agricultural Law of Supreme Court decisions/lawsuits
- d. Use of sewer sludge on agricultural land or residential land was discussed, explored, etc.
- e. Dave Anderson read his notes from MAAC Boot Camp which he attended during the month. Written notes will be forthcoming.
- f. Discussed briefly increasing the Ag Com's visibility by possibly creating a Facebook page and holding a small fair as part of Bridgewater's Autumnfest. Dave suggested perhaps having egg contest, vegetable contest, chickens, etc. We will discuss further next meeting.
- g. Next Meeting Date
 - i. July 25, 2017. 7:30pm Academy Building

12. Public Comments- no public comments.

13. Miscellaneous

14. Closed Session

15. Return to Open Session

16. Adjournment-9:39 pm