

Lancaster Agricultural Commission Meeting Minutes March 7, 2022

Location: Lancaster Community Center

Attendees: Peter Jakubowicz
Eric Jakubowicz
Susan Miner

Guests: Bob Lidstone
Roy Mirabito

7:00 p.m. New Business – Time is being reserved for topics that the Chair did not reasonably anticipate to be discussed.

Bob Lidstone made Ag. Com. aware of Federal programs to protect farmland, he wanted to be sure Ag. Com. was up to speed or if Ag. Com. had questions about these programs. He also made Ag. Com. aware of a meeting/presentation by Janet Morrisson at 10:00 on Thursday, March 10, 2022. This presentation maybe able to answer questions about farms selling development rights also this meeting will be focused on Sterling/Lancaster property of 500 acres to see what happens.

New definition for Agricultural Land now includes Blueberries.

Peter stated with the APR program that when the state employees change positions the interpretation/rules can change as well for the farmers.

Peter also picked up Ag. Com. mail, Mass Farm Bureau has offered Lancaster Ag. Com. free membership, so he will apply for that.

Sue will contact Jasmin Farinacci, Planning Director to get a Financial Statement for our next meeting.

Sue will call Steve Mudgett to please reapply for Ag. Com. – Peter found his previous letting and he can drop it off to him.

Sue and Eric need to send letters to the Board of Selectmen to renew their Ag. Com. positions.

Chapter 61A Discussion

Peter brought Davis Land maps of 61A Property,
After looking at maps Peter's recommendation and Ag. Coms. Members feel the only property to pursue would be open space/tillable land if it ever comes up for sale/first right of refusal. The Ag. Com. will continue to review 61A property maps for Agricultural purposes if ever asked by the Board of Selectman.

Discussion of Planning Board New Ag. Bylaw

Roy Morabito attended our meeting to request suggestions/recommendation to the proposed Agricultural Lancaster Bylaw which would include: Brewery, Agricultural Tourism, Bed & Breakfast. He stated Tom Christopher, Planning Board member has forwarded it to Town Counsel for review. Ag. Com. will review draft and discuss at next meeting.

8:00 p.m. Adjourned