

**Town of Medway  
Agricultural Committee  
Medway Public Library, Historical Room  
26 High Street, Medway MA 02053**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

**August 24, 2016**

**Present:** Chairman Paul Atwood, Vice Chairman Bruce Hamblin (arrived at 7:42 PM) and Secretary Margaret Perkins.

Chairman Paul Atwood called the meeting to order at 7:31 PM.

**Approval of Agenda and Minutes:**

A motion to accept the agenda for the meeting of August 24, 2016 was made by Ms. Perkins, seconded by Chairman Atwood and approved unanimously.

A motion to accept the minutes from July 20, 2016 as submitted was made by Ms. Perkins, seconded by Chairman Atwood and approved unanimously.

**Citizen Comments:**

No citizens present.

**Old Business:**

- A. Update on Chapter 61:
  - Chairman Atwood obtained a list from the assessor's office of all the Chapter 61 properties in Medway, which will be used to catalog the agricultural use of land in town.
  - The Board plans to go through the registry of deeds to figure out what is on record for each property. This will be a time-consuming process that the Board plans to work on over the winter.
- B. Recruitment of additional committee members:
  - Ms. Perkins has not heard from the individual that expressed interest in sitting on the Board.
  - Chairman Atwood proposed approaching Susan Robinson of Buzz 10 Honey to see if she has any interest in becoming a Board member.
  - Mr. Hamblin noted that the start of the new school year may be a good time to recruit students from Norfolk County Agricultural High School.
- C. Farm to Fork Dinner
  - Chairman Atwood attended the event at the community farm and said it was a small, but successful event.
  - Selectman Maryjane White was in attendance.

- Sweet Pea's Catering catered the event, the beer served was from Peak Organic Brewery, and coffee was by Red Barn Coffee Roasters. The band, The Hip Swayers, provided the entertainment.
- D. Agricultural Zoning Bylaws:
  - Chairman Atwood stated that the agricultural regulations have been approved. These were generated by the Board of Health and provide guidance for animal ownership, size of lots, manure management, and prohibitions about certain animals, to name a few.
  - Chairman Atwood will obtain copies of the document and distribute to Board members.
- E. Medway Farmer's Market:
  - Chairman Atwood recently went to the farmer's market and spoke to Susan Robinson.
  - They try to limit participants to one per each type of farm (may have 2 fruits and vegetables).
  - Small operation.
- F. Community Farm Tour:
  - The tour took place earlier in the day. 29 people were in attendance, 16 children and 13 adults.

#### **New Business:**

- A. Training:
  - Ms. Perkins informed the Board about training opportunities for new farmers available through the Massachusetts Association of Agricultural Commissions, which are mostly offered Southeastern Massachusetts.
  - Chairman Atwood mentioned that UMass also has programs for various types of farmers.
- B. Effects of drought:
  - The dry conditions have just about eliminated the onion crop at the community farm. The potato crop was also slightly affected.
- C. Community Farm has a farm day coming up in September.
- D. Mr. Hamblin suggested that the Medway Community Farm consider participating in an open farm day on the same day as the town of Holliston, adding the farm to the list of farms that can be visited.
  - Chairman Atwood will bring this to the attention of the community farm Board for consideration for next year.
- E. Farm Assessment Survey:
  - No update

#### **Upcoming Meetings:**

September 14, 2016

#### **Adjournment:**

The Board adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Filipa LeClair

Meeting Recording Secretary