

Minutes
Agricultural Committee Meeting
May 4th, 7:00 pm, Historical Room, Medway Public Library
Attendees: Paul Atwood, Bruce Hamblin, Margaret Perkins

Meeting called to order at 7:17 pm

Agenda approved unanimously

Citizens speak - none present

Selection of officers

Paul Atwood - Chair

Bruce Hamblin - Vice Chair

Margaret Perkins - Secretary

New Business

Updates on Chapter 61 land in Medway

Paul updated the 2001 map obtained from the Assessor's office showing land in Chapter 61

Currently 1 parcel in forestry

Currently 2 horse farms in Chapter 61

Several parcels of agricultural land previously under Chapter 61 are no longer - concern that rural character is disappearing

Updates from Medway Community Farm

Not going to Ashland Farmers' Market this year, so more CSA shares will be available: all people on CSA share waiting list have been accepted

Will still go to Medway Farmers' Market

Plan to improve and enlarge farmstand

Bought or leased a tractor

Added two pumps for irrigation last year

Plan to improve kitchen for classes and cooking demonstrations has not yet come to fruition

Work Plan: Establish and prioritize issues

Find out who in town owns land in agriculture

Annual report to Assessors required to be submitted by landowners with land under Chapter 61

Seek feedback from Selectmen if property owners come to them seeking to take land out of Chapter 61

Develop plan for matching people looking to lease land for agriculture with landowners

Connections through Medway Community Farm?

Contact Planning Board for information on acreage currently in agriculture.

Modify survey from A Handbook for Agricultural Commissions, published by Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources

Let people know about Chapter 61

note in tax bills?

Through Community Farm?

Through Town's Communication Director?

Possible future goal: Right to Farm Bylaw

Recruiting additional committee members

Someone from Community Farm?

Paul will attend next Community Farm meeting

Recruiting associate member(s) - Norfolk County Agricultural High School

Currently 12 students from Medway attending

Possibly community service?

Bruce wrote draft of letter seeking interested Norfolk Aggie students from Medway. Margaret will contact Norfolk Aggie administration asking them to distribute it.

Margaret asked the Holliston Agricultural Commission about attending one of their meetings to learn more about what they do, and the Agricultural Committee has been invited to attend the meeting on May 19th at 7:00 in the Holliston Town Hall.

The Medway Agricultural Committee will meet with the Board of Selectmen on Monday, May 16th at 7:00 pm.

Next meeting: TBD

Meeting Adjourned: 8:53 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Perkins