

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

MINUTES OF MEETING

September 13, 2017

Present: Chairman Paul Atwood, Co-Chairman Bruce Hamblin, Secretary Margaret Perkins, and Board Member Mike Kassel.

Chairman Atwood called the meeting to order at 7:45 PM.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes:

Chairman Atwood added two items to the agenda: Open Space and Recreation Survey and Capital Improvement Plan.

A motion to accept the agenda for the meeting of September 13, 2017 as amended was made by Ms. Perkins, seconded by Mr. Hamblin and approved unanimously.

A motion to accept the minutes of August 16, 2017 as submitted was made by Mr. Hamblin, seconded by Mr. Kassel and approved unanimously.

Citizen Comments:

No citizens present. Selectman Glenn Trindade had expressed interest in attending a meeting.

Old Business:

- A. Updates on Chapter 61 land in Medway/Letter of introduction of Agricultural Committee to Chapter 61 land owners- Chairman Atwood and Mr. Kassel mailed/delivered their letters to property owners. Ms. Perkins and Mr. Hamblin agreed to get their letters out as soon as possible. Chairman Atwood suggested that the Board create a list of general questions to address with Chapter 61 land owners during their follow-up meetings. Possible topics include principal agricultural product; issues with abutters, supply acquisition, markets; equipment. Specific questions will be generated by each Board Member based on individual land use.
- B. Medway Community Farm Festival- being held October 1, 2017. Activities for this event will be geared toward children. Chairman Atwood will present on blueberry farming.
- C. Farm to Fork Dinner: the fundraiser was held at the Community Farm earlier this month. Chairman Atwood was one of approximately 85 people to attend. He noted that the evening was successful, but does not know if it was profitable for the farm.
- D. Medway Farmer's Market: no update.

New Business:

- A. AgCom Boot Camp on Animal Health, Regulations and Resources: this informational and free event is being held at the Holliston Town Hall on September 27, 2017 from 6-8 PM. Ms. Perkins learned about the event on the MA Association of Agricultural Commissions Facebook page. Ms. Perkins and Chairman Atwood hope to attend.
- B. Ms. Perkins noted that she is still interested in hosting a program about living with wildlife at the Medway Public Library. With the number of coyote and bear sightings in the surrounding area, she believes it would be beneficial to the public.
- C. Appointment of current members- Ms. Perkins was recently reappointed and sworn in as a member of the Agricultural Committee for a 3 year term.
- D. Ms. Perkins believes that this Board is now considered a commission since two new members have been added.
- E. Open Space and Recreation Survey: Chairman Atwood urged Board members to participate in the online survey as this is the only way to ensure that comments, concerns, and new ideas are documented. Mr. Hamblin expressed several concerns including the timeframe for responding to the survey, lack of new open space areas versus existing open space distribution, neighborhood access to open space and recreation areas, lack of input from children in regard to what is lacking in town related to their outdoor interests, and lack of preservation of old mills that can serve both as educational and recreational landmarks. Chairman Atwood stated that children's input is being requested through parental responses as well as outreach to scouting groups.
- F. Capital Improvement Plan: Chairman Atwood does not believe that this Advisory Board is currently affected.
- G. Medway Garden Club: Ms. Perkins informed the Board that the Garden Club has recently gained access to a considerable number of mums that need to be planted and protected over winter. Members from the Garden Club would like to know the feasibility of having the plants planted at the Community Farm. Chairman Atwood noted that the request can be passed along, however most plots not currently in use at the Community Farm have already been planted with cover crops.

Next Meeting:

October 18, 2017 at 7:30 PM.

Adjournment:

The Board adjourned at 9:16 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Filipa LeClair

Meeting Recording Secretary