

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

MINUTES OF MEETING

March 28, 2018

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

Chairman Atwood called the meeting to order at 7:37 PM.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes:

Chairman Atwood approved the agenda for the meeting of March 28, 2018.

A motion to accept the minutes of February 21, 2018 as submitted was made by Ms. Dempsey, seconded by Ms. Perkins and approved unanimously.

Citizen Comments:

No citizens present.

Old Business:

- A. Updates on Chapter 61 land in Medway- members of the board have not heard back from any land owners. Ms. Perkins and Ms. Dempsey noted that one of the farms has recently been promoting agricultural ventures on their Facebook page.

Chairman Atwood stated that the Open Space & Recreation Committee is considering what use the town may have for Chapter 61 land.

- B. Medway Farmer's Market- Ms. Dempsey stated that plans for the upcoming season are in progress and the tentative start date for the market is the last week of June (depending on the spring season). Next steps being considered are making the farmer's market a town function and getting the Agricultural Commission to partner with and eventually take over running the market. This is something that is consistent with other towns' farmer's markets. Ms. Dempsey further noted that the farmer's market is currently not meeting the needs of the community and more vendors are needed, although Board of Health regulations make it difficult for some vendors to participate. Lastly, Ms. Dempsey hopes to bring awareness to the Senior SNAP Program which provides state assistance for seniors to purchase locally grown food. If enough interest is generated she would like to arrange for transportation from the Medway Senior Center to the market each week.

- C. Right to Farm By-Law- Ms. Dempsey conducted initial research and provided board members with information regarding steps necessary to begin the process. In her opinion, she believes that Medway would be eligible and that the board has time to bring this to next year's Annual Town Meeting. Chairman Atwood spoke to a representative from the Holliston Agricultural Commission who was willing to meet with our board members to share their experience with this process.

New Business:

- A. Summary of Association of Agricultural Commissions Annual Meeting- Chairman Atwood and Ms. Perkins attended and were pleased with the content and diversity of the workshops and lectures. Topics ranged from current practices and hardships in the maple sugaring industry, to food safety, farm trespassing, and legislative issues. Chairman Atwood also noted that the Medway Agricultural Commission is now a voting member of the Association.
- B. Medway Public School Gardens- Ms. Dempsey noted that garden beds will be constructed at the McGovern school. A committee is being formed that will oversee the gardens and hopefully involve parents and interested community members in the upkeep of the gardens throughout the summer months. This will allow for the space to be fully utilized, for gardens to be properly maintained, and for students to participate in gardening activities for more of the school year.
- C. Medway Pride Day- taking place on May 19th. Ms. Dempsey stated that Medway Community Farm will be participating and asked board members if the Agricultural Commission planned on having a presence at the event either individually or as a collaboration with the community farm. Chairman Atwood will consider participating.
- D. Growing Mushrooms at Home- this workshop is taking place tomorrow night, March 29, 2018, at the Medway Public Library.

Next Meeting:

April 18, 2018 at 7:30 PM.

Adjournment:

The Board adjourned at 9:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Filipa LeClair

Meeting Recording Secretary