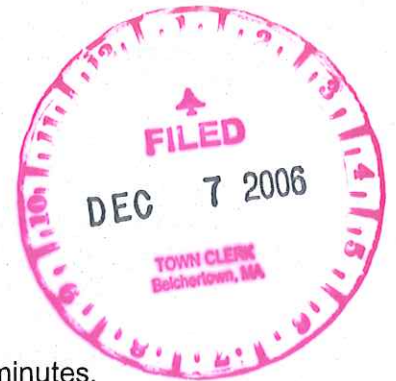


Agricultural Commission
October 17, 2006

Meeting room 104, 2 Jabish St., Lawrence Memorial Hall

Members: G. Adzima, J. Gillan, H. Guardenier, ~~R. Reidy~~, W. Shattuck, and
Associate Members: S. Gay and A. Page, *R. Reidy*



The meeting was called to order at 7:07 pm.

Minutes: **Motion** H. Guardenier voted to accept the July 18, 2006 meeting minutes,
Second W. Shattuck, **Vote** 4-0 (~~R. Reidy~~ abstains); *R. Reidy*

The August 15, 2006 minutes will be endorsed at a future meeting.

The Sept. 19, 2006 minutes will be accepted after they are amended.

Discussed the Western MA Agricultural Commission gatherings and training seminars. There will be seminars held in November and December 2006. There will be Agricultural members attending.

Website and e-mail. H. Guardenier will put this together. She is in contact with Kevin Hannon, Director Computer Department. It will be AgComm@belchertown.org

The website will be sent to AgComm members prior to the website being active. This way, things can be added or changed. W. Shattuck noted that with the upcoming training session, it will provide information to the members for websites and communications. The AgComm may want to put a "press release" in *The Sentinel*, that they are meeting the third Tuesday of each month, in room 104 at 7 pm.

Discussed ways to get pictures of farms in Town, and to reach out to Historic Commission and Stone House Museum. J. Gillan will contact both and see if she can borrow pictures of farms in Town. W. Shattuck said he has a CD of his farm about the cows. H. Guardenier said she could place it on the internet as a link.

G. Adzima brought up discussion for Agricultural Commission "Goals". She would like to reach out to local farmers; work with existing Town Boards; and educate groups on various farm subjects. Discussed whether the AgComm wanted to put "educate" or say "information". Discussed a Mission Statement and that this commission would help farmers. This could be the place that the farmer could work issues out between themselves and other boards. The AgComm may want to have in their statement, informing, collaborating, supporting the farmers in Town.

S. Gay will copy the Schedule of Use section of the Zoning Bylaw so AgComm members can review and see if they have any comment or change to bring up. The Land Use Subcommittee will be updating the Zoning Bylaw and would like input from departments and commissions.

Discussed inventory of current farms in Town, and that the AgComm may want to invite the farmers to a social type meeting, get to know each other and get a list of comments or concerns from the farmers. Perhaps the invitation can be for January or February 2007. Discussed how to get this list - perhaps through the Town Clerk or Assessor office in Town Hall.

W. Shattuck noted that he will speak to the Assessor office for information regarding farms and how they set the Chapter 61A rates?

The AgComm would like a list of Town Boards and Commissions as well. Then the AgComm can discuss their relationship with each. Discussed collaborating with the Belchertown Land Trust people. Do they have regular scheduled meetings? Perhaps the AgComm would want to get on an agenda with the BLT.

H. Guardenier noted that some schools are working with local farms in using their produce.

J. Metcalf submitted "horse manure management" brochures. The AgComm may want to think of ways to get this information out to the public. Where do farmers go in town that they would see the brochures? S. Williams, DPW Director is working with the compost business. He mentioned using the old dry sewage overflow beds.

November 21, 2006 will be the next AgComm meeting.

Some items for the agenda are: seminar information; Schedule of Use from the Zoning Bylaw; State School Campus possibilities; web page update; farmer outreach event in Jan. or Feb. 2007.

Motion W. Shattuck to adjourn @ 9:00 pm, **Second** J. Gillan, **Vote** 4-0.

Endorsed by a majority of Agricultural Commission members on: 11/21/06
date

