

**Agricultural Commission**  
**November 21, 2006**

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

Members: G. Adzima, J. Gillan, H. Guardenier,  
Associate Members: S. Gay, A. Page, R. Reidy

Guest: John Appleton (The Republican newspaper)

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

Minutes:

**Motion** G. Adzima to accept the Sept. 19, 2006 minutes as amended, **Second** H. Guardenier, **Vote** 3-0;

**Motion** G. Adzima to accept the Oct. 17, 2006 minutes, **Second** H. Guardenier, **Vote** 3-0.

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

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Website and e-mail. H. Guardenier is waiting to hear from Kevin Hannon, Director Computer Department. E-mail [AgComm@belchertown.org](mailto:AgComm@belchertown.org) to leave a message for this committee.

Discussed the Agricultural Commission "Goals".

The commission would like to:

- a) be a voice for local farmers;
- b) work with existing town boards and commissions;
- c) share information to educate ourselves and new homeowners in town.

Discussed "brainstorming" this winter, have a get together with other interested people in town regarding agriculture. Brought up a question of how to get to know who is farming in town, and how to get an inventory of farms in town.

Decided to have a get together in January 2007, and ask for permission to use Lawrence Memorial auditorium here at 2 Jabish Street. S. Gay will check with the Board of Selectmen on the use of the auditorium. The AgComm noted January 20, 2007 at 4 pm seemed like a good day for a get together.

Noted there is a "form of list" at the Assessor office as to who claims farm animals, etc. The Conservation Commission would have a list of people they sent out invitations to, when they started to get people interested in this Agricultural Commission.

There were suggestions made as to how to get to know other farmers in town. Perhaps a questionnaire to farms, what would it take to help you stay in town? A. Page said he has a list of ten questions, and he said he'd mail out his list of questions.

The Schedule of Use section of the Zoning Bylaw (ZBL) was copied for the AgComm members for their review. The Land Use Subcommittee to the Planning Board will be updating the Zoning Bylaw and would like input from departments and commissions.

The AgComm asked if Planning Board member, Daniel Beaudette could come to the next meeting (Dec. 19, 2006) so they could ask a couple of questions about the Schedule of Use area of the ZBL. S. Gay will ask if he can come to the AgComm meeting on Dec. 19, 2006 at 7:05 pm.



A. Page brought up recent issues regarding outdoor wood furnaces. The Board of Health will be reviewing the use of these furnaces. Some towns have banned them. A. Page said he has an alternative (better design) to banning the furnaces. He asked the AgComm if they wished to support this idea. The AgComm members said they would not want to get into regulatory issues that are being developed with these new outdoor furnaces.

G. Adzima went over the training seminar she attended, and noted that there was a lot of good information available. She noted the American Farm Land Trust "rebate" program. This is tied into the loss of forest lands in the State of Massachusetts. Handouts were made available and they will be put in the AgComm file for information.

H. Guardenier brought in Ashfield's Fall Festival flyer. It has a guide and map of their local farms and merchants. She noted how it can be placed in local places, as well as the local library.

A question was brought up for members to consider. Farms are expected to do more than just produce their product. We may want to think about, what do our farms do here in town? The AgComm would like to have each member give a five minute talk about what they produce, and would like to request Will Shattuck talk about his maple syrup product.

December 19, 2006, 7 pm will be the next AgComm meeting.

Motion G. Adzima to adjourn @ 9:05 pm, Second H. Guardenier, Vote 3-0.

*Approved*

Endorsed by a majority of Agricultural Commission members on:

4/17/07  
date

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