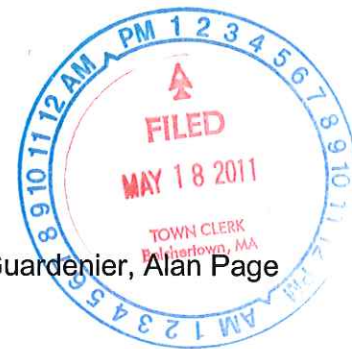


Agricultural Commission
February 15, 2011



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

Member present: Grace Adzima, Daniel Beaudette, Judy Gillan, Hope Guardenier, Alan Page
Associate Members: Susan Gay, Matt Kotowski
Absent Members: Will Shattuck

Grace told the members that Sandy Brougham came to the Town Hall and held a poultry seminar.

Judy mentioned a full schedule for the mobile poultry processor. She discussed the Department of Public Health and how they work with the people who wish to use the mobile processor.

Alan felt the AgComm could advocate for collective use of a mobile processor.

Grace informed the members of upcoming events. There is an agriculture commission meet in Deerfield March 5th. There will also be a seminar on Estate Planning for landowners at the St. Francis Parish Hall here in Belchertown at a later date in March. Grace will invite surrounding towns and various departments and commissions, as well as landowners who have successfully taken this route to protect their family land.

Alan said he went to a town office to discuss his 140 acre parcel on Sabin Street in the area of the UMass Orchard. He wanted to talk about protecting his land. He also called the Kestrel Trust people, but did not received a response.

Grace asked Dan about the Belchertown Land Trust and their connection with the open space in town. Dan explained how the BLT group is working on connecting the recreation trail through town, and that it has been discouraging. The Bondsville Dam is a huge financial burden. He noted trails are maintained by the Belchertown Snowmobile Club, with the permission of the Town of Belchertown. The BLT is interested in keeping open space for public use in a safe condition. He said they are working on keeping motorized bikes such as all terrain vehicles and dirt bikes off the trails. Snowmobiles do not ruin the trails, as they work on a frozen landscape. He also said the Town of Belchertown requires proof of insurance before any person goes on Town property with any tool.

Discussed: sources of energy and projects in various other states; the AgComm website; the farm brochure and featuring a Town farmer; and ideas and goals.

Dan said he would stop by the Board of Selectmen office to ask about signing a letter of appreciation for Joe Simcuc, who worked at the UMass apple farm for so many years. Dan said he will have to resign from the Agricultural Committee as an associate member.

Adjourn 8:50 pm.

Minutes submitted by S. Gay