

Minutes of Agricultural Commission meeting 3/20/07  
Submitted by Hope Guardenier

Members present: Hope Guardenier, Judith Guillen, Grace Adzima, Richard Reidy, John Clements

Guests present: Roxanne Austin, Bonnie and Doug Rae, Kevin Stitt of Organic Soil Care, Inc., Belchertown cattle farmer

Meeting started at 7:05.

We began our meeting by hearing from our guests about their concerns and questions. Kevin Stitt of Organic Soil Care, Inc is thinking about relocating from eastern Mass to Belchertown and was interested in grants for his business for technology and development. Judy shared some resources from NESFI.

We reviewed the minutes from the prior meeting.

There was a lively discussion of the website which has launched on the Belchertown homepage. It was decided that resources should not be linked from the site and that it should focus on providing information about Belchertown farmers and local agriculture. Hope expressed a need for help in designing and adding information and photos to the site and John indicated that he has experience in website design and could assist.

We are getting close to finishing our Belchertown Farm Guide. More farms to be listed will be sent to Hope from Grace for the final draft which will be presented at the next meeting. We will be distributing the brochure to local businesses, listed farms, and the nearby Chambers of Commerce.

Agricultural bylaws were reviewed again so that we can make recommendations to Dan Beaudette for a town warrant to go before the fall town meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30.

