

Belchertown Agriculture Commission

DRAFT Meeting Minutes, April 17, 2007
submitted by Jon Clements
Room 104, 2 Jabish St., Lawrence Memorial Hall



In attendance: members Grace Adzima, Will Shattuck, Sue Gay, Hope Guardenier, Jon Clements, and Judy Gillan; associate members Alan Paige, Richard Reidy; guests Dan Beaudette and Howard Mann.

Meeting called to order at 7:05

Website and Community Plan updates presented by Hope and Jon respectively.

Discussion on 2007 project list presented by Grace. Potential projects discussed include: Farm/Farmer's day/tour (summer, fall 2007); Chapter 61 presentation; Belchertown Fair; partnerships with Community Preservation Committee and MA Department of Agricultural Resources; funding opportunities, including farm viability grants.

Because of interest/angst expressed in changes to Chapter 61, Jon moves that the first of a series of 'Ag Com Lecture Series' be a presentation on Chapter 61 by a qualified party (Massachusetts Farm Bureau), Grace seconds, motion passes unanimously.

Belchertown Farm Guide update; Grace presented latest version of Guide which is nearly ready to go to printer. Some discussion on printing options and quantity, will leave it up to Grace (with input from rest of Commission) to work out details. Jon moves to have limited quantities of Guide printed and distributed ASAP, more Guides can be printed as needed; Grace seconds; motion passes unanimously.

Short discussion on progress to review Zoning Bylaws and potential positive changes that may benefit farmers; Dan B. has been instrumental in suggesting changes to make it more clear for Planning Board. More time is needed to review, to be on next meeting agenda.

Minutes from previous meetings that have not been finalized discussed; motions made and seconded to approve minutes from March 2007, February 2007, December 2006, and November 2006 and all passed unanimously.

Alan P. introduced stepitup.org and some recent local activities related to CO2 emissions and global warming.

Motion made to adjourn at 9 PM by Grace, seconded by Hope, passes unanimously.

Belchertown Agricultural Commission
Summary of Meeting June 19, 2007

Present: Grace Adzima, Jon Clements, Hope Guardenier, Alan Paige, Richard Reidy
Absent: Sue Gay, Judy Gillan, Will Shattuck



All members with expiring terms have been reappointed.

The Farm Market Brochure is ready to go to the printer. Copies will be placed at the Library, Town Hall, Farmer's Market and local businesses.

The Antique Tractor show will be held on July 28 and 29. This will be a good time to coordinate our Farm Stand Tour.

Alan Discussed his involvement with Step IT Up and ways to create awareness about reducing foreign fuel use and dependency.