

**Agricultural Commission**  
**July 15, 2008**

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

Members: G. Adzima, J. Clements, J. Gillan,  
Associate Members: S. Gay, D. Beaudette, A. Page (7:25 pm), R. Reidy  
Absent Members: H. Guardenier, W. Shattuck  
Visitor: Dave Fournier  
To order: 7:30 pm



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**Meeting agenda items:**

**Motion** J. Clements to accept the March 18, 2008 minutes, **Second** G. Adzima, **Vote** 3-0.

**Motion** J. Clements to support and co-sponsor the 9<sup>th</sup> annual tractor show held on the Town of Belchertown common, **Second** G. Adzima, **Vote** 3-0.

The minutes from the June 17 AgComm meeting were reviewed. There were only two members present from this meeting, and so the minutes will be filed with the Town Clerk office for informational purposes.

Grace Adzima noted a couple of people want to be on the farm brochure, but they did not fill out the form to be placed on it. Hope said she'd have to take the Belchertown map off the brochure in order to fit all the farm information on. If anyone has farm pictures, or suggestions for the brochure, please contact Hope Guardenier.

Judy Gillan brought the year of 1987 version of the Belchertown Farmland Preservation Plan in for members to view. She said people are asking questions about workshops for canning goods. Dan Beaudette said he will contact someone to see if they would be interested in giving a workshop on planting and canning.

Grace brought up the Massachusetts Agricultural Commission Conference in January 2009 to see if anyone would be interested in attending? Also, a form was sent regarding the conference. The people who are putting the conference together are asking what subjects people would be interested in, so they can draw people to this conference.

Grace read the subjects aloud and asked if anyone had a priorities on these subjects. The subjects covered: agriculture land preservation; farmer protection, laws and regulations, inventory at local level, working with boards and commissions, conflict management, educating public, funding, effective method to release funds, etc. Commission members discussed who would be speaking at the seminars.

Discussed difficulties involved in starting a farm with some of the regulations on the books, costs associated with engineering, surveying and legal assistance to conform to these regulations. That may be one reason farming land is something not as easy to do, and so is being sold off as building lots.

Grace announced the 9<sup>th</sup> annual antique tractor show coming up. The AgComm sponsors this show.

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Discussed the farmer market held on the town common on Thursday from 2:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Grace asked for ideas to expand the area for the market. Brought up Park Street, and perhaps it could be closed off, but the public bus route is along that side the common, and stops on Park Street.

Discussed: food security and food recalls in recent months; clean water is a major issue in some parts of the world; sharing farm equipment; school to work programs; sponsor classes for canning classes; Pathfinder Regional School agriculture students as an asset; reducing chemicals on lawns and gardens; and wind energy.

The Zoning Bylaw for signs was brought up. The Planning Board is reviewing an amendment to the sign bylaw, amended recently by the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission. The Planning Board is working on this at their recent meetings. The AgComm will review this at a future meeting.

The board thanked David Fournier for stopping by.

Adjourned at 9:00 pm

Minutes: July 15, 2008: S. Gay