

**Agricultural Commission  
July 20, 2010**



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

Member present: Grace Adzima, Alan Page, Will Shattuck

Associate Members: Sue Gay, Matt Kotowski

Absent Members: Dan Beaudette, Mike Austin, Judy Gillan

Also attending: Tom Carey, Frank Wenzel

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Frank Wenzel and Tom Carey were present to see if there were other people (particularly farmers) who received a letter from the assessor office. Will had a copy of it as well. The letter asks the property owner to call the assessor office to make an appointment for them to review the farms' equipment. The letter has not been received by all farmers. It was noted that this is the busiest time of year for all farming and equipment can be in various places. It is not being received as a welcome appointment at this time.

The commission and other farmers who contacted Grace would like to put a question on the ballot for a town vote, requesting the farm equipment tax be taken off the books. It was agreed that some farmers do not even get a form, as most farm equipment is from the 1950's. There is a website that one can access to see what some equipment is worth, but it only goes up to 15 years old. The farmers at this meeting agreed that most people do not have newer model equipment.

Grace said that other towns have asked this question to their fellow towns people and have been successful in removing the whole process of assessing farm equipment. This commission will propose this at a future Board of Selectmen meeting. Grace wants to come up with the cost of the assessment, what they would realize from the work of assessing the equipment and present it to the Board of Selectmen to get it on a town meeting as a warrant article.

June 2010 minutes will be revised and accepted at a future meeting.

We went to look for the Mass General Law book 58A again, in the Board of Selectmen meeting room for the second month, and it was still not there.

The next meeting will be August 17, 2010 at 7 pm.

Adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Minutes submitted by S. Gay