

Minutes of Agricultural Commission meeting 9/19/06  
Submitted by Grace Adzima



Members present: Hope Guardenier, Judith Gillan, Grace Adzima, Richard Reidy  
Guest: Judy Metcalf

Meeting started at 7:05.

Judy Metcalf, from the Board of Health, presented a draft for the educational pamphlet on horse manure disposal. She would like to submit this to *The Sentinel* to educate horse owners. Members reviewed the text and made some suggestions.

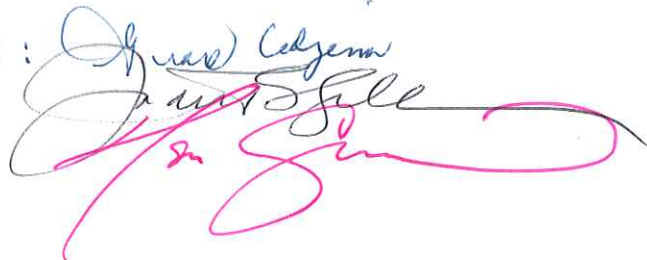
We then discussed the Farmer's Market and what kind of products can and cannot be offered for sale. Judy M. explained that fruits and vegetables have surpassed beef and dairy products in the number of cases of food poisoning. The Mass Dept of Public Health has strict guidelines as to how food is processed, labeled and handled. This often requires the use of a Commercial Kitchen. Members expressed an interest in working with Judy on a handout for market vendors, similar to Amherst's, so that sellers may be informed.

Judy Gillan related how NESFI is working to offer a mobile poultry processing unit, which could travel to individual sites in Massachusetts. They are working with the State for license approval.

Hope has offered to design a Web page for the Ag committee which would be a part of the Town's website. Grace will contact the town programmer about this and email availability.

We then had more discussion about our mission and the main goals to focus on. Grace suggested having three main goals: to represent the voice of the local farmers, work with existing town boards and to educate. This framework would guide the committee in setting projects for the future. Rick thought that providing "information" was better word to use than providing an "education." Hope summed it up by saying we would be "informing, collaborative and supporting". We will finish this discussion at the next meeting and then start selecting the projects to meet these goals.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55.

Endorsed: 

1/12/06