

Minutes

November 19, 2011 Lanesborough Agricultural Commission Meeting
Lanesborough Town Hall

Attendees: Darlene Newton, Pete Gallant, Marv Michalak, Aimee Thayer

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:50 a.m.

Members reviewed the minutes from the October 6, 2011 meeting and accepted them as written.

New business

Chairman Newton reminded members of the Mass Association of Ag. Commissions conference scheduled for Dec. 10, 2011 in Deerfield and Jan 14, 2012 at Hancock Shaker Village. Members agreed to plan on attending the meeting in Hancock on January 14. A motion was made and passed to use Ag Com funds to pay for regular member's attendance. Aimee will arrange for her own registration. Pete offered to talk to the town treasurer to request a check for the registrations.

A Citizen Participation form was reviewed by the Commission. Aimee provided the language from the original warrant article stipulating that Ag Com members must be past or present members of the Lanesborough agricultural community. There was some question as to the status of the interested citizen as part of the agricultural community. Commission members agreed that a laymen's interest in agriculture was not the same as actually farming. Marvin said he would contact the interested person and ask her about her agricultural experience.

Members discussed the possibility of partnering with a farm to have an open house. Aimee pointed out that farms in town who have pick your own operations already have an open house atmosphere and the others are probably not as willing to host such an event.

Plans for the Rabies clinic were made to be held before February 9th to accommodate pets who need the 2 shots within the year. Pete will call Dr. Beebe to settle the date.

He will also ask the Town Clerk if we can send reminders in the town census form envelope so that everyone will know about the clinic. Members agreed to have a "stuffing the envelope" meeting if we can arrange to tag along with the census mailing.

Members discussed the request for proposal for the sale by the Berkshire Natural Resources Council (BNRC) of the Fletcher Farm property on Old Lanesborough Road to Cheshire. Aimee reported that she had heard several responses were received.

The next meeting date was set for December 15, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

A motion was made to recess and reconvene at the holiday farmers market in Great Barrington at Muddy Brook Elementary school.

The Commission reconvened the meeting at the farmers market where members toured the market. Pete brought up the idea of the Commission renting a table for interested farmers from town to participate. Aimee found out from the market manager that the price for space ranged from \$35 - \$50.

Members travelled back to the Town Hall and adjourned the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

Submitted by,

Aimee Thayer, Alternate