

## Lanesborough Agricultural Commission Meeting Minutes – April 3, 2008

**Attendees: members - Prudy Barton, Pete Gallant, Marv Michalak  
alternates - Darlene Newton, Aimee Thayer**

The meeting opened at 7:03 p.m. in the Planning Board Room at the Lanesborough Town Hall.

1. **Minutes** of December 06, 2007 were reviewed by the members and a motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to approve the minutes. Minutes of March 13, 2008 were reviewed and a motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the minutes as corrected.

### New Business

2. Janet Cazavelan attended the meeting to make the Ag Com aware of the serious nature of a problem with loose dogs up on North Main Street harassing, chasing and cornering livestock. She provided copies of an incident report filed with the Lanesborough Police Department, a copy of the Mass General Law provisions on trespassing and a Farm Bureau directive on a farmers rights regarding stray dogs. Pete explained the new procedure for dealing with animal control and offered to pass on the information to the Town Clerk who is the interface with the new animal control officer. The new officer is already pursuing complaints and unlicensed dogs and so far working well with the police and Town Clerk to establish routines for dealing with animal issues.
3. **Denis Guyer** - Members discussed sending a letter of congratulations to Representative Guyer for his receipt of an award for service to his constituency in the area of agriculture was in order. A motin was made, seconded and passed unanimously to do so. Prudy offered to draft and send the letter.

### Old Business

4. **Ag in the classroom** - Marv reported that he had finished up 4 weeks at Lanesborough School with a demonstration and participation experiment at the school growing tomato seeds. The first week, none of the plants were watered and did not germinate. Things did improve however and the experience was valuable for the students as they progressed through the 4 week lesson. Marv also extended the invitation for kids to have their parents bring them to his greenhouse to plant mother's day baskets. 4 kids signed up and 2 showed up.
5. **Farm Inventory Survey** - Darlene agreed to provide Prudy with the information garnered from the survey which Prudy will transform into a narrative describing the results to be used for various purposes including applying for grants and programs available to support and promote agriculture in town.
6. **Grant opportunities** - Aimee provided a copy of the information to apply for a Green Pastures Fund grant through the Berkshire Taconic Foundation. Members discussed some potential items to promote ag in town including brochures, signage and other marketing projects. Also, the possibility of working with local businesses to help them promote local agriculture and make local products available while providing a benefit to their business at the same time.
7. **Rabies Clinic** - The animal inspector indicated it was too late this year to schedule a rabies clinic. To adequately plan for it we needed to start in December to make the arrangements.
8. **Environmental Bond Bill** - Aimee advised the members that we are now listed as official endorsers of the environmental bond bill and the link to our web page is also available through the Bond Bill website under endorsers.

### Adjournment and next meetings

Members confirmed the next meeting for May 1st at 7:00 p.m. each date in the Planning Board Room at Lanesborough Town Hall. A motion was passed to adjourn at 8:43 p.m.