

Lanesborough Agricultural Commission Meeting Minutes – June 7, 2007

Attendees: regular members - Pete Gallant, Prudy Barton alternate members - Aimee Thayer

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. in the Planning Board Room at the Lanesborough Town Hall.

Review of Minutes - Minutes from May 3rd could not be acted upon because a quorum was not present to move acceptance of the minutes from the May 3rd meeting.

Old Business

1. **Farm Inventory Survey** - Members discussed the timing for sending out the survey and decided October would be a good month once everyone was back from vacation and not in the holiday season yet and the growing season would be winding down for farmers. Possibly we can arrange to send the survey with mailing of 3rd and 4th quarter tax bills.
2. The commission discussed the **Special Town Meeting** which had been posted for June 26th. The Commission expected items on the agenda to include the Tree Committee's proposed by law and a Storm Water management bylaw.
3. The Commission reviewed the Mass DAR **Agricultural Signage** program and discussed the possibility of applying for a grant during the next grant cycle to provide funds for interested farmers to apply for signage in accordance with that program. The marketing grant cycles for the Commonwealth have been in the spring, so by 2008 the survey results will be in and we can better quantify the potential for a successful grant application in light of farmers' interest in signage and other advertising. The Committee added a question to the survey to gauge interest in the program.
4. The Commission further discussed the changes in the Chapter 61, 61A and 61B regulations on taxation of forest, agricultural and recreation land. The suggestion to sponsor a possible informational meeting on the revised provisions of the law for other Berkshire Ag Coms and Assessors sometime in September was discussed. Aimee will contact Nathan L'Etoile of the Farm Bureau as a possible speaker for the workshop as he was deeply involved in the revision of the Chapter 61 regs. The members tentatively set September 18th as a date for the meeting pending availability of a speaker.

New Business

1. Pete reported that he received a call from a resident of North Main Street reporting problems with noise and disruption from Dirt Bikes and All Terrain Vehicles. Pete suggested to the resident that they write a letter to the AgCom describing the situation and the AgCom could advance the issue to the Select Board. Members agreed that as reported, this did not appear to be an agricultural issue but rather one of noise pollution and public nuisance. Prudy confirmed that this activity was also occurring in her neighborhood in the same vicinity and was a serious safety issue. Further, it was noted that the police and Department of Fish and Wildlife and Environmental Law enforcement do not have the resources to properly control this problem.

Next meetings and Adjournment

Members confirmed the next meeting dates for August 9th at 7:00 p.m. and September 6th.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to adjourn at 8:00 p.m.