

Adams Agricultural Commission

Meeting Minutes

March 21, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Adams Town Hall

8 Park Street, Adams, MA 01220

RECEIVED-POSTED

23 SEP 20 AM 8:19

TOWN CLERK
ADAMS MASS.

CLERK _____

In attendance: Meg Bantle (MB), Sonia McWhirt (SM), Christina Satko (CS), and Loren Steins (LS)

Absent: Natasha Bourdeaux

Also present: John Pitroff, Second Chance Composting

1. Call to order 7:00 pm
2. Old Business
 - a. Approval of the minutes
 - i. 1/11/23 spelling errors corrected. Motion to approve by CS seconded by LS Unanimously approved.
 - ii. 2/21/23 spelling errors corrected. Motion to accept minutes by LS seconded by CS. Unanimously approved.
 - b. Ag businesses in town
 - i. Any additions or corrections
 1. Add Cole Mountain Farm
 2. SM to send updated farm directory to other members
 - ii. Draft of letter to send to Adams Ag businesses from SM
 1. Eammon of community development has offered to help draft the letter.
 2. Letter to include: introduction, approval of the Farmland of Local Importance recommendation, "Planning for the future of your farmland" event poster, explain the Adams business directory, and contact information. Letter to be signed off by the committee chair or whatever is standard.
 - a. What/ who is the contact number/ email that is best to give to the public in the letter?
 - b. LS suggests adding "Please pass this information on to farmers you may know in town."
 - c. SM to finalize letter and bring to community development.
 - c. Consolidated list of resources for agricultural businesses .
 - i. Should the list focus on funding opportunities for now?
 1. Two separate lists, one for grant opportunities, one for general help/ guidance.
 2. MB suggests adding 1Berkshire to the grant list.
 3. SM to send both documents with edits to Haley for uploading to the website.

- d. Right to Farm Bylaw
 - i. Questions and concerns to Town Counsel and subject to approval by Town Meeting.
 - ii. Town Meeting on June 7th, 2023.
 - iii. Is marijuana growing mentioned explicitly in Right to Farm bylaws in other towns in the state?
 - iv. State right to farm Bylaw has not been changed.
 - v. NB to look into wetland protection as it pertains to Right To Farm.
- 3. New Business
 - a. Planning for the Future of your Farmland event.
- 4. Announcements and good of the order
 - a. iBerkshires articles following past meetings.
 - b. The Selectmen approved the Farmland of Local Importance Designation at last meeting.
 - c. State of Massachusetts has a new Ag resources commissioner Ashley Randall. Appointed on March 6.
 - d. New conservation reserve program with sign-ups open through April 7 through the USDA FSA.
- 5. Next meeting tentatively for May 23, 2023 7 pm.
 - a. MB to check with NB on schedule before reserving room.
 - b. LS to check on Northampton's Ag Bylaws to see if they mention marijuana explicitly.
- 6. Motion to adjourn by LS at 7:43 pm
 - a. Seconded by CS.