

Christopher Brittain

From: Caroline Young <rattlerprod@earthlink.net>
Sent: Thursday, January 20, 2022 3:28 PM
To: Christopher Brittain; Cindy L. Bigelow; Mary Brittain
Subject: Agricultural Commission Minutes

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Minutes of the Lee Agricultural Commissions

January 11, 2022

In attendance: Mary Brittain, David Carrington, Caroline Young

Caroline reported that she has spoken with Peter Bluhm of the Planning Board regarding their proposal for a poultry bylaw. Peter suggested 3 options that the Commission should consider regarding the poultry bylaw. These options are 1) do nothing about a bylaw 2) formulate the bylaw with consideration for male animals 3) have the Commission be the arbiter for neighbor disputes over poultry.

The Planning Board would like to come to our next meeting to discuss this matter and will be invited to our February 8th meeting.

Mary reported that Peter Naventi would like to rejoin the Commission. Current members will need to appoint him again, and that will be done.

Per Peter Bluhm, he thinks that 1/3 of a farm owner's income must come from the farm in order to be qualified for Right to Farm status. Members disagreed with that opinion. Mary will investigate.

We have been provided with the state handbook for Ag Commissions. This will require study by each member.

REC'D LEE TOWN CLERK
JAN 20 '22 PM 5:01

The Annual Report was approved, and Caroline will send to the Selectmen.

MA Farm Bureau is making changes to the Agricultural Commissions membership. The members composed a short letter indicating that Bureau's newsletter should continue to be sent to us at town hall. The letter will have to be sent from town email or letterhead so the town clerk will be asked to forward the letter.

Some ideas for Founders Day are: Sell some produce, seeds, consider a tractor parade, maybe display some pet goats

Caroline will receive email from MA Food System Collaborative. She will archive.

Some Realtors send disclosure of Right to Farm notification from property sales to the Commission. Mary will ask the town to file for us. Caroline will ask the assessor if she would like these disclosures in her filing system.

The next Commission meeting will be on February 8 at 5 PM.

Respectfully submitted.

Caroline Young

Women are Angels

And when someone breaks our wings we simply continue to fly---on a broomstick. We are flexible like that

Christopher Brittain

From: Caroline Young <rattlerprod@earthlink.net>
Sent: Monday, December 20, 2021 12:29 PM
To: Christopher Brittain; Cindy L. Bigelow; Mary Brittain
Subject: Agricultural Commission Minutes

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Agricultural Commission

Minutes 12/14/21

RECD TOWN CLERK
DEC 20, 2021 4:51:10

In attendance: Mary Brittain, Dave Carrington, Caroline Young

Caroline presented information gathered about poultry raising for review so that it can be presented to the planning board's zoning deliberations. Member discussion resulted in the opinion that the planning board zoning recommendation should not prohibit or require a special permit for any poultry, hen or cock, and members felt that suggesting the matter of butchering to the planning board was likely to be poorly received. Caroline will add rooster management and butchering to the informational list she is developing for the Commission to provide to prospective poultry keepers, and distribute the entire collection of materials to members and then present it to the planning board.

Mary reported that a web site is to be added to the town web site.

Mary also reported that Right to Farm posters and disclosure notification will be posted at town hall.

Dave reported on the Farm Bureau. Their publication is the extent of their activities to their members with its advertising. The publication is helpful for contacts to the MA Agricultural Commission, some information about grants and funding available.

Dave is very concerned about farm land being taken for solar panel installations because this reduces farmland. Caroline will ask the planning board about solar panel regulations.

The Commissions needs a list of land that is taxed as farmland (Chapter 61A) Caroline will ask the tax office for a list of those land owners so we can ask them for input for the Commission. This will contribute to the planned Lee farm brochure.. Caroline will do some research on farm brochures in MA.

Caroline will do the annual report once Mary sends along the information about how to file.

The next Commission meeting will be January 11, 2022 at 5 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Caroline Young

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Christopher Brittain

From: Caroline Young <rattlerprod@earthlink.net>
Sent: Monday, November 15, 2021 1:02 PM
To: Christopher Brittain; Cindy L. Bigelow; Mary Brittain
Subject: Agricultural Commission Minutes 10/11/21

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Agricultural Commission Meeting Minutes

November 11, 2021

In attendance: Mary Brittain, David Carrington, Caroline Young

Meeting commenced at 5 PM

Introduced David & Caroline as new members.

The purpose of the Commission is to promote agriculture, also helping town boards regarding agriculture.

It was determined that the Right to Farm Disclosure Notification should be posted on the town hall notice board. David moved that Mary will send this to the town clerk. Mary seconded, vote was unanimous. The display of this notification is required as part of the the Right to Farm by-law.

Mary moved that David reach out to the Farm Bureau to see what service they provide to town agricultural commissions. Caroline seconded. Vote was unanimous.

REC'D LEE TOWN CLERK
NOV 15 '21 PM 4:49



Mary moved that the Commission be included in the town's web site. Caroline seconded. Vote was unanimous. The town clerk will be consulted about doing this.

Mary moved that the Commission meet on the second Tuesday of each month, at 5 PM in the courtroom until days get longer, which will require scheduling for it later in the evening so that member farming can take advantage of the longer work day. David seconded. Vote was unanimous,

Members will be considering the following in order to promote the Commission to the public:

Participate in Founders Day Weekend Parade or produce a special event.

Caroline, in particular, will do some research about the advantages of having male poultry in flocks, in order to report to the Planning Board so that the information can be considered in formating the new by-law about the raising of poultry.

The library, at one time, had a small seed distribution station in the springtime, so gardeners could use them. It was suggested that the Commission could undertake this library station with seeds that gardeners generate and contribute.

A Lee Farm Brochure needs to be researched, designed and published.

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Check that the Right to Farm by-law is in the printed version of town by-laws, not just online.

The meeting was adjourned at 6 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Caroline Young

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