

Hadley Agricultural Committee

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 27, 2018 at 7:15 P.M.
Hadley Public Safety Complex Conference Room
15 East St.
Hadley, MA

Call To Order: Members Present –Matthew Kushi, Allan Zuchowski, William Handrich, Michael Docter, Adam Goodman

1.) Welcome

At 7:15 P.M., four members were present – the fifth member arrived a few minutes later – and the chair determined that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order

2.) Meeting Minutes

a.) Review and Approve Past Meeting Minutes'

Prior meeting minutes were summarized and read by each member of the commission present. Motion and second were made to accept minutes and passed.

3.) Old Business

a.) Update on website presence

The Chair updated the Commission on the fact that the Commission now has a web presence with member information, the Right To Farm Bylaw along with contact information. It was also noted that an email was formed. Adam Goodman expressed minor concern over the logistics of the email and the password. This will be closely monitored to ensure privacy protection. The Chair handling the email account is necessary as the site needs a member to be an administrator, per the Town.

b.) Potential outreach and social

It was discussed that since the Commission now has a Mission Statement, presenting ourselves to the public should be easier – thus resulting in improved outreach when the Commission is ready.

4.) New Business

a.) Social Media

An idea was proposed by the Chair of having Social Media presence. The Commission did not think this was a bad idea but wondered whether this should wait until the Commission is more established. No action taken.

b.) Any new and pressing issues as reported by members

General discussion was held on additional issues in town that could impact farmers. One topic was traffic on Rt. 9 and Cross Path Rd. This can be a dangerous area for tractors. Rt. 9 is DOT, so this could be a state issue. An additional State issue that arose was burning permits. The Town of Hadley states fires must be out at 4 PM and the season is January-May 1. This can be restrictive to farmers. Allan Zuchowski stated that he has received permits out of season as state law differs in the area of agricultural burning. Do town by-laws reflect this or is this an understanding with Fire Dept.? Allan will check with other farmers and Chair will look at State Bylaws along with surrounding communities. Road safety was also discussed. Adam Goodman brought up a point that he is also on the Conservation Committee and that the Conservation Committee is hoping to partner with the Agricultural Commission on future projects. The Chair will reach out to Janice Stone of the Conservation Committee. The Chair also mentioned that there is the potential for a regional Agricultural Committee meeting that he may attend.

5.) Review of Master Plan

The updated Master Plan was reviewed and members made aware of important issues that the town will be facing in the future. It was agreed upon to keep these issues in mind for the future moving forward.

6.) General Comments

No general comments were made

7.) Set Next Meeting

Next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, May 29 at 7:15 – hopefully in a town building. This was revised due to a scheduling conflict to Tuesday June 5. Motion and Second made and passed to accept this as the next meeting date. Tentative dates were also planned for 8/28 and 11/27.

9.) Adjournment

The Chair called for the adjournment of the meeting at 9:00 PM. Motion was made and seconded. Vote passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS VOTED UPON

APPROVED

Meeting Minutes

Setting of next meeting to 5/29