**Hadley Agricultural Committee**

***Agenda***

**Thursday, November 21, 2019 at 8:00 p.m.**

**Hadley Town Hall, Room 203**

**100 Middle Street.**

**Hadley, MA**

**Present: Matt Kushi, Gordon Cook, Allan Zuchowski, Bill Handrich, Adam Goodman**

**Absent: Joe Boisvert, Michael Docter**

1. The Meeting was called to order at 8 PM
2. Meetings Minutes will be review and approved at the next meeting.

**Updates**

1. The Chair updated the Commission on details about some of the initiatives supported by the Commission over the past year. Some of this was briefly covered during last meeting. The WGBY Asparagus Festival was a success, though there were complaints on clean up at the Town Common and WGBY’s responsibility for it. Alternate locations may be suggested for next year, but this is the Select Board’s prerogative. Asparagus Festival may be going towards not being as local when started.

The Commission has a presence on social media and we have spread our message and some resources via the Facebook page. In the future, we can brainstorm other ideas to educate the public. Our main focus is currently the Right to Farm bylaw. We can create a resource pdf to post to the website and our distribution channels as well. This include clarification on some laws and regulations (ie. burning and traffic control).

We continue to seek public input into meetings and to recruit to see if any new members are interested in joining.

**Right to Farm Sign Discussion**

1. Since our last meeting, the Chair has reached out to David Nixon – Town Administrator – to see what the process would be to erect Right To Farm signs. Mr. Nixon took interest in this project and asked if CPA funds could be used. This proved to be a no. Mr. Nixon then put the item as a budget item in the Administrator’s request. Mr. Nixon’s estimate was high due to believing that this would be one big sign. After a conversation with the Finance Committee, the Chair and Mr. Nixon agreed to withdraw this item from Fall Town Meeting and work towards Spring Town Meeting with more clarification provided.

The Commission discussed amount of signs to have made and arrived at 5 to be located in strategic locations around town on main roads. The Commission also discussed potential designs and size and agreed upon road sized signs with simple language and a small graphic to depict Hadley as a Right to Farm community and welcoming of agriculture. This information will be passed onto David Nixon and Chris Okafor – DPW Director – for estimate quote, which the Chair will explore.

**Other Issues**

1. The idea of fundraising to raise funds for the above project and other projects was broached. Perhaps having take home Right to Farm merchandise would be handy.
2. Board Organization was discussed. Matt Kushi was nominated to continue as Chair. At this time, the Chair also keeps the minutes and administrative tasks of the Commission. Gordon Cook made the motion and Allan Zuchowski seconded. The vote passed unanimously.
3. Meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM