

Agricultural Commission Meeting Minutes
July 17, 2023

Present: Randy Prostack, Sonny Crawford, Clare Pearson, Nathaniel Bellows

Meeting was called top order at 7:01

Motion to approve the minutes by Clare Pearson, seconded by Sonny Crawford. No discussion necessary. Voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

- 1) By-law review: We decided to spend 10 minutes talking generally about the by-laws with an agreement to spend more time at our next meeting, to get clarification on Section 4A/and to find out who the Town Counsel is/ is there a CMR for the 21-day notification for Section 4A.
- 2) Re: Signage-What do we want to communicate with the signage?
 - a. Easy to read/get to the point/ without clutter/engaging
Clare will connect with Victoria to figure out who makes the signs and roughly how much a 30"x20" sign costs to make. Ribco currently does the town signs. Randy provided a hand-out with multiple 'Right to Farm' signs from several local communities for us to compare. The 'Right to Farm' sign going into Hawley seems to be the most visible-highly reflective and colors (white/red) are really visible.
 - b. We need signs:
 - 2 signs-Rte. 2 East and West bound
 - 8A Northbound (Hawley)
 - N. River Rd. from Sunburn beach
 - East Hawley Northbound
 - S. River Rd. westbound from Buckland
 - Avery Brook Rd. Southbound from Heath
 - 8A South from Heath
 - Zoar Rd. from Rowe into CharlemontFor a total of 9 signs.
 - c. Could one sign coming into town from Hawley say: Home of the Hawlemont Hay program?
 - d. Would Heath/Hawley allow us to post our signs to the back side of their signs?
 - e. Doug White might know if we could post on the same sign post as the state's signs on Rte. 2
 - f. Aiming for a deadline for placing the signs by November.
 - g. Sonny Crawford is going to do some mock-up drawings for the next meeting.
 - h. There is no specific budget, but money is available for the signs (according to Town Administrator)
- 3) Open Position on the Committee: Our Committee currently has 5 member positions with 2 alternates. Eric Dean resigned, and John Hoffman is in question for one position. Nate Bellows is willing to fill Eric's seat.

- a. Motion made by Sonny Crawford to move Nate from the alternate position to a permanent member of the committee. Seconded by Clare Pearson. Motion passed unanimously.
- 4) All Selectboard meeting report: met at the fairgrounds in a thunder storm/very hard to hear anyone. But there may be overlap with other boards, especially Conservation Commission.
- 5) Items Ag Commission would like to do: finish the signage/finish by-laws/make link on town website for explanation and visibility for visitors and residents/more education for residents/farmer's market/community education.

Next meeting: August 14, 7pm

Motion to adjourn the meeting: Nate moved; Randy seconded. Vote unanimous.