

Town of Lincoln
Minutes of the Agriculture Commission Meeting
Held on Tuesday, January 10, 2023 via Zoom teleconference

Members Present:

Voting: Louise Bergeron (co-chair), Ari Kurtz (co-chair), Nancy Bergen
Alternate Voting: Sherry Haydock, Linda Emanuel, Karen Seo

Members Absent:

Voting: Ellen Raja, Lynne Bower

7:39pm – Meeting commenced – Louise chairing

Approval of minutes

11/8/2022 minutes – approved unanimously
12/13/2022 minutes – approved unanimously

Composition of Ag Comm shown in Annual Report

We agreed to list just the names of the members of the Ag Comm, not the positions (voting, alternate)

Sponsoring a hydrologist talk

Voted unanimously to collaborate with LLCT and Water Commission to support a talk by a hydrologist, e.g., posters, publicity. The Ag Comm logo will appear on posters, etc. The vote did not include any funding.

Review of Ag Com web site

We reviewed the Ag Comm web site and agreed to the following changes

- Change meeting info from “Town Office – 2nd Floor Hearing Room” to “via Zoom”
- History of Farming in Lincoln
 - remove link for books
 - move History of Farming in Lincoln to “Publications & Videos”
- Add list of agricultural books at the Library
- Previous Symposium
 - Change “Previous Symposium” to “Lectures and Workshops”
 - Add write up for no-till talk
 - Add write up for mushroom talk
 - Update with any other missing lectures/workshops
 - Add link in each write up to the appropriate video recording of the talk
- Publication & Videos
 - Add link to video of mushroom talk
 - Add link to video of chestnut talk
 - Add links to videos of soils talks
 - Add Corey’s write up

- Move “History of Farming in Lincoln” to here
- Remove Lincoln Journal article
- Put new newsletter here
- For videos that go with talks/workshops, there should be a link pointing to the summary description under “Lectures & Workshops”

- Best Practices
 - Add the new water conservation recommendations
 - Remove manure storage – it’s covered by manure management

Government food programs for seniors

Sherry met with Abigail. There are several programs providing funds to seniors for food

- Snap
- Snap Hip -- need someone on site, iPad, software; farm has to submit paperwork – closed for now.
- Senior voucher – coupons, need someone on site to accept

Codman filled out the necessary paperwork but does not have the staff/etc. needed to meet the requirement for having someone on site overseeing the transactions. Sherry to follow up to find out more about these programs

Newsletter on farm activities in Lincoln

Linda and Louise started work on a format and content for a newsletter. They are thinking of having one for spring, one for end of summer, and one for fall.

**** 1/10/2023 Action Item** – Louise to work on figuring out how many people are farming in Lincoln – vegetable, animals, cannabis

There was discussion of the nature and purpose of the newsletter.

**** 1/10//20223 Action Item** – Ari to add to the next agenda a discussion of the goals, etc. of the newsletter

Ag Comm budget and farm-to-food-pantry grant program

**** 1/10//20223 Action Item** – Ari to add to the next agenda a discussion of allocation of this year’s Ag Comm funding

**** 1/10//20223 Action Item** – Ari to add to the next agenda a discussion of the Ag Comm farm-to-food-pantry grant program.

**** 1/10//20223 Action Item** – Ari to assess the results of the farm-to-food-pantry program

- ask Karen Boyce (Food Pantry) what worked, what didn’t, what foods were wanted, etc.
- ask farmers -- draft a questionnaire asking how well it worked for them, assess delivered vs \$grant received and amounts promised

Collaboration with Con Comm to gather information from Lincoln's farms for Town Hall display, updated farm brochure, listing on town web site

Karen spoke to Stacy (Conservation Commission) about working together on gathering information from Lincoln farms. This would be used in a town hall display on Agriculture in Lincoln, an updated farm brochure, and a listing on the town web site. Karen sent Stacy a draft an email asking farmers if they wanted to participate and listing the kind of information to supply – farm name, products/services, location, contact info, optional things like photographs, etc. Stacy has offered to contact each farm, either sending the email as is, or maybe creating an online form that the farmers could use to supply the data.

**** 1/10//20223 Action Item** – Karen to send Ag Comm members a copy of the draft email for gathering information from Lincoln farms for use in a Town Hall display, updated farm brochure, and a list on the town website.

**** 1/10//20223 Action Item** – Karen to send Ag Comm members a copy of the info in the current Farm Brochure that she sent to Stacy (Con Comm) to use in asking farms to provide information (so they can see what the current brochure has about their farms.)

**** 1/10//20223 Action Item** – Karen to send Ag Comm members the spreadsheet of current Lincoln farms and their contact information.

Annual report

On 1/8/2023, Louise sent a draft version of the Ag Comm annual report to the Ag Comm members.

**** 1/10//20223 Action Item** – All to review and provide feedback to Louise on the draft Ag Comm Annual Report by noon on 1/13/2023

9:25pm -- Meeting ended