



Minutes for Agriculture Committee meeting Thursday, July14, 2022 via Zoom

Joe Rogers, associate member
Steve Verrill, member, Verrill Farm
Brian Cramer, Hutchins Farm
Liza Bemis, co – chair, Hutchins Farm
Dan Schmid, clerk, The Walden Woods Project Farm
Melissa Maxwell, co-chair, Barrett’s Mill Farm
Lise Holdorf, member Barrett’s Mill Farm
Happy Goethert, member, Scimone Farm
Grace Scimone, member, Scimone Farm
Lois Suarez, visitor

Call to order at 7:04 pm. Liza chaired the meeting.

1. **The May Minutes** were approved after some amendments. Liza moved to approve the minutes as amended, and Joe seconded the motion.
2. **News about Concord Farms and Farmers:** Steve is having trouble finding someone to put in a well on their property on Sudbury Road. Brian is also having trouble with the new well at Hutchins and had to set up the old pump. Brian said he prefers this year to last year in terms of weather. Even though it has been a dry year it beat the constant rain last summer. Melissa said their crops are growing well this year. Everyone said the weeds are having a great year. Brian said that his low-lying fields are doing a great job growing corn. Field in other years that may have been too wet. Brian said that there is a big line of crops waiting to be watered. They are all vying for water. Brian joked the order is: What is your favorite crop? Let’s water that one first. Steve is about to sign a contract for new housing at Verrill. Steve said that deer were eating their summer squash and Brian said they are trimming their tomatoes a little bit after they destroyed the water melons. Brian said that they have downy mildew on the basil. He said that the first planting of basil is Genovese, the second planting is Genovese, Devotion and Prospera, and further plantings are only Devotion and Prospera. Brian thinks the Genovese is the best tasting. Every one’s tomatoes are looking good. Steve asked how people are doing with the increase in production cost for their crops. Most people are raising their vegetable prices.
3. **Mothers Out Front Pumpkin Smash:** There was a discussion of what to do with pumpkins at the end of the season. Laura from Mother Up Front wanted to do pumpkin smash last year and had reached out to Liza about this year. Last year they ended up doing the smash at Codman Farm and feeding them to pigs in Lincoln. It was very successful however they are hoping to do something in Concord and are looking for a farm that has pigs in Concord. There was some concern of introducing phytophthora if diseased pumpkins were added to compost. Brian suggested a catapult to launch the pumpkins into a compost pile. Liza said she would touch base with Laura again since Codman was probably the best option for this again.

4. **Quick Concord Farms Video Part 2 update:** Tory is scheduled to do the Walden Woods Project farm this month and Marshall farm was schedule also in July.
5. **Ag Day Update:** Melissa has filled out the light plant application for the banner across Main Street. Liza sent invitation to the Non-Profit organizations. Happy set out the invites for the farms. Melissa set up volunteers with Minuteman Tech. Liza set up the veggie race requirement as far as wheels, etc. with Vanderhoof's – they will buy all the parts for us. The hope is that Stone soup will help with advertisement expenses. Last year we spent \$750 on printing. Melissa is going to ask Chip if Stone Soup will help us with printing costs and anything to do with promotions. Happy is doing the poster. The library may do a small thing on the same day as Ag Day on the library lawn.
6. **Article 37 letter update:** This is about the paper bag fee. Apparently, the law was sent to the state and the town is waiting to hear back. It sounds as though it is going to take a long time to hear back from the state about when the law would be implemented. Liza is still working on a letter with the help of a friend who is a lawyer. It sounds as though there is a fair amount of time to send the letter.
7. **Other business:** Lise brought up the 250th anniversary executive committee for the battle of Concord. They would like someone from the Ag Committee to be part of their Committee. The planning for this would be in 2024/2025. Lise said that there was interest in a Colonial Garden. Possibly the Garden Club could be involved. There was some interest in doing a float in a parade however more involvement from the ag community seemed unlikely. It also depends when they plan to have a parade. It may be good idea to have someone keep tabs on what they are planning. Grace and Steve and Dan need to do their online Ethics training.
8. **Public Comment:** None.
9. **Next meeting** set for August 11th in person at Verrill Farm's tent.
10. Liza motioned to adjourn the meeting; Dan seconded it. Meeting adjourned at 7:55PM