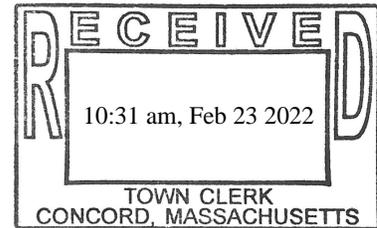


**Minutes for Agriculture Committee meeting Thursday, January 13, 2022 at 7pm Via Zoom:**

Joe Rogers, associate member  
Steve Verrill, member, Verrill Farm  
Brian Cramer, Hutchins Farm  
Lise Holdorf, Barretts Mill Farm  
Liza Bemis, co – chair, Hutchins Farm  
Dan Schmid, clerk, The Walden Woods Project Farm  
Happy Goethert, member, Scimone Farm  
Roseanne Scimone, Scimone Farm  
Grace Scimone, member, Scimone Farm  
Melissa Maxwell, co-chair. Barretts Mill Farm  
Emily Wheeler, visitor



Call to order at 7:04pm

1. News about Concord Farms and Farmers: Liza asked if everyone made it through the cold snap. Brian asked what folks do about lime. He said that their farm at 754 Monument St. has high levels of phosphorous with good PH however at Barrett’s Mill, Peter Spring, and Petersen the PH is marginal with low calcium. Melissa said they get lime from Hollis Hill in Fitchburg. They get more Dolomitic lime because of how powdery Calcitic lime is.  
Steve is still wrestling with the housing situation at Verrill Farm and has decided to build on crop land. However, the state ruled if he builds on an APR lot the workers who live in the house on that lot can only work on that lot and not on any of the other APR lots. He likely will have to take land out of production that is in Sudbury for a house.
2. Ag Committee Report for the Town Annual Report - Review Draft: was drafted by Melissa. She summed up the season with “the weather provided optimal conditions for disease and rot.” That says it all. It is due on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Melissa will send it tomorrow.
3. Spring Forum update: Liza asked Steve to report on his discussions about the spring pollinator committee interest in participating in the spring forum. He suggested the idea of Concord Farmers growing pollinator plants for sale along selling seeds. Also maybe having demonstration gardens for pollinators as Barrett’s Mill has on a small parcel next to the road. Lise said that it worked out however they had problems with weed in the bed. Brian talked about a portion of a field of theirs, Peter Spring, off Bedford Rd. Bryan Windmiller has been seeding it with native and pollinator plants. It looks very impressive. Liza asked if Steve thought if the pollinator committee would like to do the spring forum with us. Joe wondered if the milkweed could be started in a pot and sold. People thought that it may be difficult to grow in pots. Melissa investigated this at one point. She looked at Delia’s presentation. Steve thinks there is a new position at the UMass Extension dealing with pollinators. He is going to investigate it. Happy thought

that someone at New England Nursery's or Mahony's might be good possibilities for speakers. Grace knows Ken Brown and said she would ask him if he has or knows anyone who could talk about pollinator plants, cultivation etc... Dan volunteered to talk from a farmer's perspective. Brian said that cover crop angle with buckwheat, Austrian winter peas, mustard, and facilia to promote pollinators and beneficial insects in general would be a good angle. It was decided to do more brainstorming and discuss more at the next meeting. Happy will put together an outline or topic list to present to potential presenters. The spring forum would happen at the end of April in Steve's Tent.

4. Concord Farms Video Part 2 update: Liza talked to the new producer at Minute Media Network, Tory. She is excited to take on and possibly expand the video project. Liza explained that we wanted to do a fall video as the second part of our spring video last year. Tory thought that would be good and suggest the idea of also having a monthly short film focusing on one farm doing a task appropriate for that time of year, perhaps three to four minutes long. These would culminate around Ag day when they would be combined into a video. An example of a film would involve Tory going to a farm next month to talk about whatever they are doing. Possibly fruit pruning, planning, seed ordering, as well as an introduction for that farm. Liza's impression is that they would do a lot more of the production then they have done in the past. Lise thought that two to three minutes sounds kind of short. Five or six minutes may be more realistic. Happy thought that since our farms are all different sizes we all do thing differently. The films could reflect that with seeing how multiple farms do the same project. Others thought that focusing on one farm at a time would be easier to produce. Liza liked the idea of showing up at a farm and asking what do you happen to be up to today? The consensus is to go ahead with the films. Joe and Steve offered to help Liza with coordinating the film. Liza moved to go ahead with the video project. Steve second it. All voted yay.
5. Ag Day 2022 update: Liza reported we are on the police calendar however the town manager has not signed off on it yet. Liza is going to let the Library know when we are planning to do Ag day and she is also going to reach out to the garden club. Melissa suggested we contact the Minuteman Tech group for help with Ag Day once we get a little closer.
6. Other business: none.
7. Public Comment: none.
8. Next meeting: Set for February 17<sup>th</sup>
9. Liza motioned to adjourn the meeting; Steve seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.