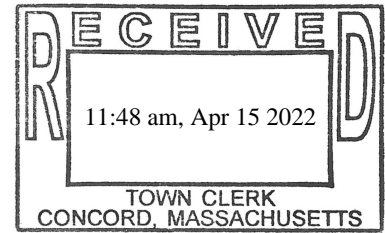


Minutes for Agriculture Committee meeting Thursday, March 10th, 2022 at 7pm Via Zoom:

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



Called to order 7:07

Review Minutes: None to review.

News about Concord Farms and Farmers:

Emily mentioned Steve gave report at a Conservation Coffee earlier this month about pollinator plants. Steve said the farms can help educate the public about pollinators by promoting pollinator plants in plant sales and by planting example gardens like Barrett's Mill.

Steve stopped by Ricky Marshall's today to encourage him to attend the meeting tonight but he had to sterilize his greenhouse and wasn't sure he would be finished. Liza will reach out to ask if he would like to be involved in the Minute Man video project.

Brian shared that he had researched a question brought up in our previous meeting - whether or not neonic treated seed is part of the new restricted use pesticide regimen in MA. He found that treated seed is not considered a pesticide so not considered under same set of laws.

Everyone has started their greenhouses. Steve had a \$2,000 bill for heating. Brian shared that it is very expensive to buy propane tanks right now.

Steve is working on plans for new labor housing building. It will be on a few acres of previous crop land in Sudbury that isn't restricted.

Dan had a tree come down on his internet during the wind storm on Monday!

Spring Forum update:

- Updates on Minuteman media – Liza shared that Tory will get us files of our farm videos so that we don't need internet for the movie night. We will be able to have the 20min one last year and the 10-minute video filmed at Verrill Farm in January. The Hutchins Farm 10-minute video may be ready too depending on the date of our movie night.
- Tech needs – Melissa mentioned we could use her laptop and she and Dan will work on hooking it up to his projector. Liza will ask the Town about speaker options. Dan might have something, he will look.

- Date - Thursday April 28th was suggested. This is after earth day and school vacation. Liza mentioned sunset will be 7:40 so maybe we could start it at 7:15. Steve volunteered to make the popcorn using his popcorn supply and machine. Steve has 15 chairs, Melissa suggested we advertise for folks to bring their own lawn chair and/or blanket. Steve said we could borrow a few bales of hay from horse barn.
- Promotion – Steve thought we could get a story in paper and we could each put it on our websites and social. He also mentioned that he would talk to Beth Williams at a tourist center to promote. Emily asked if could Minuteman Media could help promote? The Town would be another option so Liza and Melissa will ask Erin Stevens at Town if they can post information for us. Lise volunteered to make a jpeg we can all post on our websites and social media. Melissa suggested that next time Tory comes to film, someone take a photo so we can use that to help promote movie night as well, or maybe we can get a still from one of the videos to use. Liza suggested that some of the non-profits who came to ag day might like to help us spread the word. We could offer to have them table. Brian mentioned that the pollinator committee may like to attend and hand out information. Gaining ground was in film so Liza will email Polly and Anna to see if they will send out event information to their email list and ask if they want a table. The Ag Committee will have a table with our maps as well as try to get them to sign up to get involved. Liza mentioned that we could also get info about 61A to display. Steve mentioned that one of charges of Ag Committee was to resolve conflicts between farmers and neighbors. Fortunately, we haven't had as much of that. Melissa will ask Delia if they have any info sheets they'd like to include from NRCS.

Concord Farms Video Part 2 update:

Liza shared that Tory from Minuteman Media came and filmed at Hutchins today. She did an interview with Liza and Brian. She had a blueberry pruning demo with Dave. She came back to take drone footage. She's looking forward to filming at other farms. Going to get us the footage from Steve's soon so we can send out to people. Saltbox is on board to do bee installation at end of April. Barrett's Mill will do May. Dan will do June. Liza will ask Ricky about July and the Scimone's about July or August.

Other Business:

Steve said he'd like to talk a little about pollinator plants. He suggested that Concord farmers could produce pollinator seeds to sell. He shared that this project would interest the pollinator committee and everyone could benefit. Steve was going to sell kits with weed mat, potting soil, and seed for people to plant. Hutchins was going to have a little sign and section for "pollinator friendly" plants during their self-serve plants sale because lots of plants we grow already that are supportive of pollinators such as cilantro and squash.

Lise had an update from the Housing Foundation. The Housing Foundation asked her to reach out to the new national park director about reviving discussions about farmer housing on national park land because there is now funding available for infrastructure in national parks. Lise had just heard back and the new superintendent seemed interested in what Ag Committee does (as well as housing foundation). Lise would like input from people who went to houses in the park

for more information before talking with the superintendent. Brian mentioned he had been part of the group that visited 4 houses that were in various stages of disrepair. It was discussed then that if the houses were fixed and rented to a non-profit or the town then it might be possible not to have to have it at full market value. Lise mentioned that the housing foundation would be interested in helping facilitate it. Lise will meet with the new superintendent on behalf of the Housing Foundation and also invite her to an Ag Committee meeting.

Public Comment: None

Next meeting: set for April 14th

Dan moved to adjourn the meeting, Melissa seconded, meeting adjourned at 8:07pm