

Agriculture Committee meeting Thursday, April 8th, 2021 at 7pm via Zoom:

Steve Verrill, member
Joe Rogers, member
Brian Cramer, Hutchins Farm
Liza Bemis, co - chair
Melissa Maxwell, Clerk
Dan Schmid, Member
Emily Wheeler, visitor
Happy Goethert, Scimone Farm
Grace Scimone, Scimone Farm
Roseanne Scimone, Scimone Farm

Called to order 7:03

1. Approve previous minutes: Dan motions to approve, Steve seconds.
2. News about Concord Farms and farmers: Steve says peas are shivering in the ground. Brian shared that peas are seeded as early as possible when dry enough to work.
3. Town Meeting Article 49: Brian said that Mark Hanson will be bringing a warrant forward to continue the pollinator committee with a specific focus on neonics. Liza shared that the Select Board pushed off the meeting about the warrant until Monday because they would like someone from the Ag committee there when discussing Pollinator Health Advisory Committee. Brian thinks that a pollinator health committee is appropriate but should not focus too closely on neonics. Liza agrees as does Melissa. The beginning of the warrant focuses of neonics rather than pollinators and why their health matters. Joe agrees with others on the committee that the state level is where this should be determined.

Steve says he moves a vote to approve the Ag Committee statement as written. Dan seconds. Statement passes in committee vote so will be sent to select board.

4. Spring Forum film project update: Emily shared that there has been no filming done yet but dates are being scheduled for filming. Saltbox was going to be first last Monday but their bees hadn't arrived. Phil is away May 10-14th and he would like to finish the film before then. Emily shared that filming is planned at Scimone next week and then Verrill Farm is next.

Emily shared an update from the Village Artroom/Margot Kimball. She has been working on a farm mural and they have permission for it to go on wall of Saltbox Kitchen. There will be a festival May 19th. It features Barrett's Mill and Verrill.

5. Ag Day update: Melissa shared that Lise submitted an application with police department and it's on their calendar for September 11, 2021 if the COVID restrictions are lifted. Emily mentioned that the Concord Garden Club has expressed interest in being involved again.
6. Other business: Steve mentioned that Concord Together has been a good collaboration. He thinks the whole thing bodes well for the buy local environment in Concord this year. Dan didn't do a farm stand this year, wondering if it will be a big year.
7. Public Comment: None
8. Next meeting: May 6th, 2021