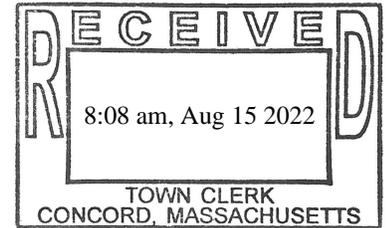


Minutes for Agriculture Committee meeting Thursday, April 14, 2022 Via Zoom:

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
Chip Poutasse, Brigham Farm
Melissa Maxwell, co-chair. Barrett’s Mill Farm
Emily Wheeler, visitor



Call to order at 7:07 pm Liza chaired the meeting.

- 1) Liza moved to approve the February minutes; Dan seconded it.
Liza moved to approve the March minutes; Melissa seconded it.
- 2) News about Concord Farms and Farmers: Bill Kenny is not selling beans any more. He sold his equipment and is growing cold crops and decorative corn. Liza said she would find the UMass jumping worm link. Liza said that she is getting a lot of questions about them. People are saying that you should not bring in compost that you don't know the source of. Not enough is know about them and if heat kills them. They are at the community garden across from the fire station. They are a problem in the forest and undisturbed property. Steve has a lot of planting going on, peas, beans and corn. Cold weather is expected in Sunday night, 35 degrees. Barrett's Mill has seeded spinach, beets, and carrots planted along with two planting of peas. They lost an entire greenhouse of spinach to voles. Steve is harvesting swiss chard out of an unheated greenhouse. Brian put parsnips in in mid-May. He said they do not put them in too early because they take two to three weeks to germinate and you want to flame them right before they come up. However, they take so long to mature you do not want to go to late. Last year they did not come up so by the time they realized this it was too late to put in a second seeding. And then the deer ate them. Brian joked that his advice with parsnips is don't grow them. Steve said that you must water them every day. Hutchins planted their first kale, kohlrabi, early cabbage early broccoli and cauliflower. Brian puts the broccoli and cauliflower in tight since it is kind of a risk and not a lot of field space has dried off at this point. They are having good luck with Chinese Kailan for spring and fall. They grow early varieties of Broccoli by preference. Chip asked if they sell the Chinese versions. Brian said they do because it is enough like Broccolini. Bunched together it sells well before the flowers open. You can get multiple cutting over the period of a few weeks. Hutchins has opened their farm stand for self-serve now. Barrett's Mill sells some things on-line now but then will transition to self serves and they open their stand at the end of May.
- 3) Spring Forum update: Movie night - 7:30 is a good time to do it. The plan is to try projecting on the wall of the tent and testing it out on the 20th at 7:00. Steve is setting up

a popcorn machine. Liza provided the photo for the promotional material. It was decided to have a Q&A session at the end of the films.

- 4) Concord Farms Videos Part 2 update: Saltbox is doing something on the 24th or 25th with Tory.
- 5) Ag Day Update: The town manager signed off on Ag Day and we are on the town calendar. Emily is giving Liza and Melissa a time line when things need to happen. Emily said the we should do a window at the Concord Bookstore. Pull together some farm implements for the display. The Concord Library is doing their book sale in June and it might be a good idea to check in with them about a smaller event around Ag Day if possible. Liza will check in with them. Steve wondered if the Minuteman Vocational school would like a table at Ag Day– Melissa will check.
- 6) Musketaquid earth day: Musketaquid Earth day wanted to know if we wanted to do a table for their event on earth day on Saturday the 23rd. No one is free to do a table but Liza will drop off some Ag Committee Map and materials for them to give out. Emily said that we might want to participate in Cooler Concord on April 30th. Liza said she would reach out to them.
- 7) Concord Housing/National Park update from Lise: Postponed until next meeting
- 8) Other Business: Melissa said that the Minuteman Vocational schools is looking for projects on farms for their students. She said she could put an email to send around to all the farms to see if there is a project for them. Liza said that Joe's term is up at the end of the month and asked if he would like to do another one. He said he would be happy to do another term. Liza nominated Joe for another term and Dan seconded it and we all voted yes. Liza will let Henry Dane our liaison know and ask how to proceed.
- 9) Public Comment: None.
- 10) Next Meeting set for May 12th via Zoom
- 11) Liza motioned to adjourn the meeting; Steve seconded it. Meeting adjourned at 8:17 PM.