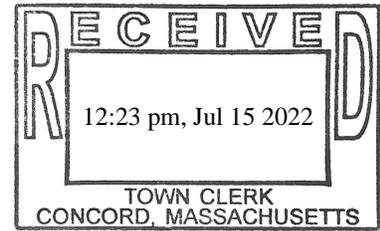


Minutes for Agriculture Committee meeting Thursday, May 12 2022 Via Zoom:

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
Chip Poutasse, Brigham Farm
Melissa Maxwell, co-chair. Barrett’s Mill Farm
Emily Wheeler, visitor
Louis Suarez, visitor
Happy Goethert, member, Scimone Farm
Roseanne Scimone, Scimone Farm
Grace Scimone, associate member, Scimone Farm



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

1. Review Minutes: No minutes are ready to review, Dan will have them ready next time.
2. News about Concord Farms and Farmers: Steve is putting tomatoes in and is irrigating in three fields. Liza said their well is supposed to start working today. It’s around 110 gallons per minutes. Brian said that it has been very dry. Steve said the wind is not helping. Everyone is happy with the weather compared to last year. Dan said they put out their cucurbits on the hay cart and the next morning with a dip in temperature they were looking pretty bad. Brian said that their tomatoes got zapped not from cold but from the wind. He said that they planted their first squash cukes and bean plugs a day ago. They have in the ground already two corn, one tomato, and lots of lettuce plantings. Steve said that they have rhubarb for sale for the weekend. Hutchins has their first farmers market on Saturday in Union Square Somerville.
3. Spring Forum movie recap: It went well in spite of the fact that it was cold. Liza said a big thanks to Steve and his family. There was a good turnout and people enjoyed it.
4. Concord Farms Videos Part 2 update: Tory filmed part of Salt Box and she has to go back to do some talking head pieces with them. Melissa and Lise are being filmed in May. Walden Woods Project farm is in June.
5. Concord Cooler Festival Recap: Liza and Joe had a table at the event and Liza said it was good to have farming representation since the event was heavy on tech. Liza thinks that it is good for us to continue to participate in the event in future years. Emily said that in previous years there was a lot about gardening. Liza got a lot of questions about growing near solar panels and a lot of questions about the jumping worms. There was a lot of interest of farming verses technology using the land. Joe said that the event went

smoothly for him. There were also a lot of questions about the rail trail and about how Hutchins feels about abutting the rail trail. Steve said that he has problems with growing crops under solar panels since they are both competing for the sun. Brian said that it affects the way your equipment can work under the structures. Liza said that Umass is studying spacing and crops that could be grown under panels. She said that in the southwest United States shade is more important for growing because it gets too hot. There are competing interests in land use and it was good to be there to represent our interests.

6. Ag Day Update: Liza and Melissa met with the police department. It is a go with the police department and the town for September 10th. The library is doing their book sale event to their regular day in June this year, however they may try to do a smaller book event on Ag Day, but no promises. We have the Concord Bookstore window reserved to promote Ag Day from August 22nd through August 29th. Liza would like help setting up the display and collecting items for it. Everyone said that could come up with an item to use in the display. There was talk of the poster and people liked the poster Happy did last year. Melissa said that the poster should be in the window to tie the exhibit to Ag Day. Emily liked the post card used for the Spring Forum and suggested we could reuse that. Happy suggested that we could use the poster image from last year. She also offered to look onto other images in the next few weeks. Happy volunteered to help Liza with the window.

Liza said that hopefully the town will pay for the police detail and the Light Plant setting up the banner. Melissa will talk to the light plant about the banner. She filled out the application last year. The police liked the arrangement of tents last year and liked Steve's truck blocking one end of the road. We need to get registrations out to nonprofits and to farms. Emily thought early in July would give people more time to register than at the end of the month as we did last year. Roseanne offered to get Leonard back again this year to play his music. Everyone thought it was a good idea. Liza said that she would take care of the registration for the nonprofits. Happy said she would take care of getting the farm registrations. There was a question posed if we should keep the fee at \$25 or raise it to \$30 to help defray some costs. Was decided we would revisit after we know how much is in our ag committee account. Chip said that if asked Stone Soup would help pay for the printing of the poster. Liza is going to check into how much money is in our account. Happy will get the banner fixed in West Concord at the sign shop. Last year there was talk about expanding the veggie track area and getting more wheels. One thought was to include a tent for Veggie racing and one for Veggie decorating. Brian suggested sourcing the wheels for the veggie race ahead of time and Liza is on top of it. She will get a budget together. We are going to need volunteers. Chris Carmody gave Liza that name of the person who coordinates the high school senior volunteer program. That may be a source of volunteers. Emily and Joe agreed to measure and assign spaces to participants the morning of again. Liza will make the map again. The Pollinator committee may have a table.

7. Concord Community Garden Outreach: Joe wondered how the Ag Committee could interact more with the Concord Community gardens. One thought was to have email

address of all the coordinators of each site so if we have an event or even information we could pass it on and it could be distributed to the members via the coordinators. Chip suggested giving a spring forum on the history of the land making up the community gardens. An example is Anthony Rogers is still around and could talk about the Rogers farm. Emily suggests starting with Rebecca Purcell, Michael Wiggins, and Kristen Cargill to get the names and emails of the coordinators.

8. Concord Housing/National Park update from Lise: Lise gave us an update on National Park housing. The Concord Housing Foundation met with the new park superintendent to find out what is going in with housing on the park and the GOA, the Great American Outdoors Act Funding. They got 27 million dollars to rehabilitate structures. This money is earmarked for only single-family housing. There is a possibility of the town to get a long-term lease on some of the farmland and one of the houses, however the park still wants to get market rate for them. Some of them range from \$2,700 to \$3,700 a month. We would be interested in more long-term leases for the farmland, as they now are only done on a yearly basis.
9. Other Business: none.
10. Public Comment: none.
11. Next meeting: June 19th.
12. Liza motioned to adjourn the meeting; Dan seconded it. Meeting adjourned at 8:27 PM.

