



Ag Committee Minutes for June 8th, 2023 Meeting via Zoom

Attendees:

Liza Bemis, co-chair, Hutchins Farm
Steve Verrill, member, Verrill Farm
Brian Cramer, Hutchins Farm
Mary Hartman, Concord Select Board
Mimi Graney, Concord Economic Vitality Manager
Joe Rogers, clerk, associate member
Happy Goethart, member, Scimone Farm (joined at 8:20)
Dan Schmid, member, Walden Woods Farm
Emily Wheeler
Lois Suarez, pollinator committee

Meeting chaired by Liza, meeting called to order at 7:04 PM

Review Minutes: Steve motioned to accept the minutes as written, motion seconded by Dan. Minutes accepted.

News about Concord Farms and Farmers: Melissa had baby boy named Miles - a new farmer is born! Dan brought up that crops are being slowed by cool wet weather. Brian agrees and still has some crops under cover. Steve reported some strawberries damaged by cold, others just being slow to grow. Dan's new greenhouse watering system glitched and overwatered the plants causing all kinds of problems. Brian is picking peas and the potatoes are happy but important crops like tomatoes, melons and squash are struggling with the cold weather. Emily praised the Marshall Farm tour. A generous and informative hosting by Ricky. High reviews from all who attended. (All agreed that customers are bad at self-picking flowers or crops).

AG Day Update: Liza said the town seems ready to cover the cost of the police detail and the light plant banner. Further conversation needed with police about locations of vehicles and traffic and she will contact Ron. A thorough discussion began of who, other than Concord Farmers, should participate in Ag day. Mary asked how/if the Select board should participate. General agreement that it is good the Select Board participates. Emily reminded us of the history of Ag day and inclusion of Concord civic groups. It was noted by Dan that the preamble to the draft written application for AG Day has wording that describes the issue well. With one edit the group re-endorsed this language by consensus, and Liza will put this wording on the Ag Day Website as well. Liza also reported that the library is likely to have an Ag day compatible event with music, but she will check in with them about logistics.

Mimi asked about cross promotion between farms and Concord stores and restaurants. More might be done. She will help with this. Maybe restaurants will feature local farm specials. Discussion of what products can/cannot be sold by non-profits at Ag day. Emily brought up the idea that raising awareness and fundraising for their group okay but not selling outside merchandise. Liza will work up language about this for next meeting and we will discuss again.

Steve brought up that Discover Concord had group advertisement(s) in magazine promoting farm businesses. Should we do something similar, promote farms in group ads in Concord Bridge? Maybe for Ag day and through the summer? Stone Soup perhaps could help with costs? Liza will look into costs at

the Bridge.

Liza also mentioned that she continued the conversation with the town's communication office about the committee having an 'official logo', but most logos are for departments not committees.

Quick Update on Video Project: Minuteman Media is working on the Scimone video. It is partly done, Tory is going to go back and film picking. Liza talked to Ricky about being in a video this summer featuring his chickens, she will connect him and Tory.

Other Business: Liza sent an email to the Concord Museum about maybe connecting over a Concord 250th event, but has not heard back. Health department has new chair, Liza will contact them about the bag fee subject. Steve would like us to continue to have tours by farmers of Concord farms. Steve offers to host another farmer's picnic before monthly meeting July 13. All agree that would be fun, and would be a separate event from the ag committee meeting, so no ag committee businesses can be discussed at it.

Public Comment: Mary and Mimi look forward to helping the committee. Lois will be busy with pollinator plot on Harrington Ave and a scavenger hunt.

Next meeting: set for July 13th in person at the Verrill Farm Tent.

Dan motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Steve. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM