

Agriculture Committee Meeting: June 10, 2021
Via Zoom

Dan Schmid, member
Chip Poutasse, Brigham Farm
Liza Bemis, co-chair
Joe Rogers, member
Brian Cramer, Hutchins Farm
Brooke Redmond
Terri Ackerman, Select Board
Emily Wheeler
Lise Holdorf, co-chair
Melissa Maxwell, clerk
Happy Goethert, Scimone Farm

Called to order 7:20pm

1. Approve previous minutes: None
2. News about Concord Farms and farmers: Lise curious how people are doing with new mask rules. Barrett's Mill doing a masked hour at beginning of day and has found most people are still wearing them in farm stand but not everyone. Staff still wearing them at Barrett's Mill and Verrill Farm. Emily says some places say you don't have to if fully vaccinated. She mentioned that at Debra's staff wears but customers don't have to. Chip still has masks for retail people but not out in field. Chip mentioned that in other news Sienna Farm used to rent 20-30 acres from the Tamro isn't renting it this year.
3. Town Meeting: Article 40 and Article 31: Liza reported that for Article 31 they are not changing anything based on our discussion in May but they did want to say that if greenhouse doesn't require building permit would not be required to follow the rules of the article, also even if it does we could apply for an exemption. Article 40 will be open for discussion at town meeting, comments must be under a minute.
4. Spring Forum film project update: Emily shared that the video is done! Can see it on You- Tube. She sent a note to farmers who are featured to let them know it's up and hopefully will be a news and notices. After last several hot days and spring feels far back but it was very fun and interesting. Four farms did demos- Brigham, Verrill, Scimone and Saltbox. Great experience. Did some filming at Gaining Ground and got the farm mural in it at the end. Finishing it took a lot of time, so a couple weeks later than planned. Can use as learn from to plan for fall. Partnership with Minuteman good for future. Can link that video and Bill Kenney's video on our Ag website.
5. Concord Museum 'old home week' update: Liza shared that the museum would like to have an Ag centered night on Tuesday before Ag Day. They were thinking of a panel discussion

in evening, with museum open. Theme of resilience, how concord farming community has continued through the years. The museum would like Steve and others to participate. Steve, Chip and Lise and willing to be in it. Brooke said to let them know if we had any ideas for themes such as resilience. She thought maybe we could ask Brian Donoghue to moderate and could tie history to present. She asked what the Ag committee sees as vision for Concord food scene. Lise mentioned that tools, infrastructure, could be an interesting theme which we had talked about for videos. How it's the same or different from the past. Steve shared that he used to have coal fired greenhouses. Liza sending email to link willing speakers with Jennifer at museum.

6. Ag Day/Ag Week discussion/planning: Lise shared that Ag Day is reserved with police safety officer and Chris Carmody knows about it. Steve mentioned that there was a request to see if we wanted to coordinate with fundraiser for Wright's Tavern. Liza gave an overview that the museum event is Tues sept 7, Ag day sat sept 11, stone soup the next Sunday the 19th. We could do events again 11-19th pre-sign ups. Dan wondering if doing another filming for September, Emily replied that is up to committee. She shared it could be good publicity for the September events, could have a different feel/purpose/length than the first.. She would like something shorter. Would be Hutchins, Walden Woods, Barrett's Mill, Marshall. Could make it more of a meet your farmers and focus on lead up to Ag Day. Will watch it and have talk at next meeting. Lise suggested we all watch it and come to next meeting with a plan for our sections. Liza had viewed the beginning and thought the intro was great, maybe make the second video shorter and more of just the intro with each farm featured for 3-4 min.
7. For Ag day planning Lise mentioned we still have painted signs from 2 years ago. Emily thought Happy might have the banner, we would need to reserve the hanging with the light plant. There's a timeline Emily has for what we have to do. Lise will email to make sure it's on the town schedule not just police. Terry- make sure it's publicized in news and notices. Liza will write Gabby at health department. We used to do a form for \$25 permit. Lise will get in email and send out. Emily has templates for forms. Market fee goes to Ag Committee to cover cost of publicity. Current Ag brochure is from 2016. We could talk to Happy and see how we would make a new one. With Ag day website could put info on there include map. Lise could use QR code, Steve thinks maybe with phones just address is good. Lise likes the visual of a map. Brian also likes a map. Emily the other thing part of ag day for several years are the afternoon garden tours. Organized by garden club. One of the members said they are interested. Lise was having trouble getting in touch with Garden Club so Emily will find out who to contact is to collaborate on tours and maybe bookshop window. We would want the window for after labor day.

Steve would like an opinion on Octoberfest idea at Wright's Tavern. It's a fundraiser in grass between tavern and retail district. Be a community plus or distraction. Maybe after Ag day would be best for timing. Steve will invite them to next meeting.

Lise could we invite non profits to table this year? We can get list from Emily from past. Concord based except Boston Area Gleaners.

7. Other business None

8. Public Comment None

9. Next meeting: July 8th, 2021

Move to adjourn 8:52