



Ag Committee Meeting Minutes
In Person Meeting at the Verrill Farm Tent:
11 Wheeler Rd, Concord, MA 01742
Thursday, July 13th, 2023
7:30 PM

Meeting Agenda: Call to order at 7:40pm

Liza Bemis, Co-chair, Hutchins Farm
Steve Verrill, Member, Verrill Farm
Brian Cramer, Hutchins Farm
Joe Rogers, Member, Clerk
Rosanne Scimone Scimone Farm
Grace Scimone, Member, Scimone Farm
Happy Goethert, Member, Scimone Farm
Chip Poutasse, Brigham Farm
Jane Bailey, Brigham Farm
Mimi Graney, Concord Economic Vitality Manager
Mary Hartman, Concord Select Board
Bob Hartman, Visitor
Emily Wheeler, Visitor

1. Review Minutes – Steve moved to be accepted as written, Joe seconded, minutes accepted as written.
2. News about Concord Farms and Farmers – Steve said corn about a week, Brian thought for Hutchins too. Strawberry crop discussion and how the late frost affected final blossoms, Steve did one field in remay, the other with irrigation, but they didn't get it on until 3am, so had about 30% loss in that field. remay discussion about weight of remay and sandbag use. Steve talked about 50 years ago burning tires in field to prevent freeze.
3. Ag Day Update
 - A. Where we are in planning/upcoming deadlines – need town managers signature, but hopefully just a sign off issue. Same with light plant. Liza will get Happy the banner to doctor. Happy is working on posters, should have something soon.
 - B. Layout considerations – Ron wanting a car or truck to be where Steve usually is. Make space for cruiser near Scimones. Chip mentioned the car that was in the way last year – Ron is going to try and get cones out early in the morning for more reminders. Maybe we can have something about it in an Ag Day Ad in the paper?
 - C. Revisiting rules on what non-profits can sell. Lots of discussion about this. Options presented. Melissa's Option Two seemed the best: Joe motioned we go with Melissa's option. Grace Seconded. Unanimous Vote to approve. Liza motioned that we add a \$10 fee if a non-profit is selling anything. Grace Seconded. Unanimous vote to approve.
 - D. Entertainment for the market – Michael Goodwin has volunteered again, Grace is going to talk to Lenard, if he can do maybe part of it that would be great. Maybe they can share the time slot. Grace will get back to Liza so she can talk to Michael.
4. Quick update on Video project – Tory filmed follow up at Scimones, should be online soon. Ricky had a lightning strike that took out 70 chickens, so he has been a little MIA for Tory to film. Chip would consider filming a project, maybe corn if it is doing well, he will be in touch.

5. Quick update on paper bag fee law. It's gone to committee, Liza asked Mary to help with contacting the health department. Mary will follow up with them.

6. Other Business: Ad in Concord Bridge. Liza will ask if there is a paper on Labor Day – will affect if we can do an ad the week before Ag Day. Liza will ask if there is a discount on two ads? (not just four) and we might want to target August 4th for a just general buy local from concord farm stands ads. QR code to link to guide to concord farms? Stone soup would likely be able to cover this expense. Formal request needs to be made once we know the costs. They also would likely help with the Ag Day printing needs again, but again will need a formal request. Liza will email chip when they have numbers. Final decision is to put all farm names on the Ad who have farmstands open to the public and put photos or art of vegetables in season around the boarder. Maybe a small “buy local this season” or something about buying from local farms and then list them all out. Can we fit in addresses? Maybe not. Looking at ¼ a page ad at first, but maybe half a page is better? Might not fit much in a quarter of a page. Steve suggested color, maybe even tint the background to make it stand out. Joe motioned to move forward on the ad. Grace seconded. Liza and Grace will put together the ad copy and make it happen.

7. Public Comment – Everyone thanked Steve for a great gathering at his farm.

8. Next meeting Aug 10th on Zoom

Joe motioned to adjourn meeting, Grace seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:40pm