

Agriculture Committee meeting Thursday, August 5, 2021 at 7pm at Verrill Farm Greenhouse, 11 Wheeler Rd, Concord:

Steve Verrill, member, Verrill Farm
Joe Rogers, associate member
Brian Cramer, Hutchins Farm
Liza Bemis, co – chair, Hutchins Farm
Dan Schmid, member and clerk, Walden Woods Farm
Happy Goethert, member, Scimone Farm
Grace Scimone, Scimone Farm
Chip Poutasse, Brigham Farm
Roseanne Scimone, Scimone Farm
Henry Dane, Board of Selectman
Frank Rotondo, Rotondo Farm
David Gurleo, Colonial Gardens

Called to order 7:06pm

1. Happy motioned to approve June 10th minutes: Dan seconded. Liza motioned to Approve June 24th, Dan seconded. Minute approved.
2. Concord farm news: There have been news about Asian jumping worms that don't help but instead exhaust the land. Have been seen in Lincoln and Acton. Look just like earth worms. The rivers are finally going down. Steve gives an update on the ongoing issue with H2A workers at Verrill Farm and housing issues with the Department of Labor. Steve is still having to rent two apartments. Housing has to be five hundred feet from animals and two hundred feet from wet lands. Brian said that it would be a blessing to have the same workers year in and year out. There was talk about how to better control the deer population and ticks, as the wildlife (deer and geese in particularly) are so bad this year.
3. Ag Day Update: Liza confirmed she and Melissa met with the Police and Town and we are all set – road will be closed from 9-3, and the event will run from 10-2. Meters should be covered the night before to prevent morning parking. The barricades are the same, they would like Steve to park the box truck at an angle blocking the road coming from the rotary as he did last time. The police will also set up the electric sign advertising Ag Day the week before. Liza said that the garden club may not participate in Ag Day this year due to Covid concerns. The town was only recommending masking indoors, and that the science seems to still think outside is pretty safe. If that changes, they will update us about any event changes we need to make.

The light plant is all set to hang the banner near Concord Academy the week before Ag Day, and the town will cover the cost. We do need to change the dates on the banner, but Happy said she will do that. Happy said only 3 farms had registered for Ag Day at this

point, but that's normal. Happy passed around possible flyers for Ag Day and people liked them. The town might be able to help with printing costs, Liza will check with Chris. Liza did fine bean bags for the corn hole boards.

Nonprofits participating include Land Conservation Trust, the Concord Library, The Concord Museum, and a whole bunch more – there has been lots of nonprofit interest. The board of selectmen will have a table. The Nature Connection will have a table which is a new nonprofit to be participating in Ag Day this year.

Lise is in the process of collecting updates to the Concord farm map – she gave Liza an older version for everyone to look at and give corrections on. Hope to be able to print this in time for Ag Day, town might be able to help with costs – Liza is looking into this.

4. Other business: Update on the Concord Museum event on Sept 7th: The panel will be moderated by Brian Donahue.

Steve was asked about Stone Soup. Jen is doing most of the work, but most restaurants are short staffed and maybe a simpler concept than the dinner would be better for this year. The plan is to skip the dinner this year. Chip talked about Stone Soup and said that there are 3 directors now however in the past there have been up to 6. Chip suggested that new people with energy join the board. It is a freestanding nonprofit with \$40,000 in the bank. Encourage young farmers and to preserve farmland. It was suggested to put stone soup on the agenda in the future after we get through Ag Day.

The selectmen will vote on Grace's addition to the Ag Committee next time they meet once they have the green card.

5. Public Comment: None.
6. Next meeting set for September 9th

Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm