

**Agricultural Commission
Minutes of March 9, 2016
Harmony Hall**

Present: Robert Berube, Daniel Berube, Norma Taplin, Albert Ogonowski, Ellis Neofotistos, John Brox, Don Couture (arrived 7:04 p.m.) and Recording Secretary Shannon Rowe

Absent: Caroline Zuk, Mark Shaw and David Dumaresq

Mr. R. Berube opened the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Mr. Neofotistos to approve the Minutes of January 13, 2016. Motion seconded by Mr. Brox. Motion passed unanimously.

Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

Motion made by Mr. Neofotistos to nominate Robert Berube as Chairman. Motion seconded by Ms. Taplin. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Mr. Neofotistos to close nominations for Chairman. Motion seconded by Mr. Ogonowski. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Mr. Ogonowski to nominate Ellis Neofotistos as Vice-Chairman. Motion seconded by Ms. Taplin. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Mr. Neofotistos to close nominations for Vice-Chairman. Motion seconded by Mr. Brox. Motion passed unanimously.

Richardson Middle School Greenhouse

Mr. D. Berube discussed helping the Principal at the Richardson Middle School along with the greenhouse. Mr. D. Berube discussed helping the Principal with a shopping list and discussed the adults only Garden Club at the School at 1:45 p.m. tomorrow. Mr. R. Berube stated that he would attend the adults only meeting tomorrow.

Beaver Brook Farm Meeting

Mr. Neofotistos discussed the Vision Committee's recent meetings with individuals and groups and discussed their meeting with the DeMoulas Family regarding the old homestead. Mr. Neofotistos discussed open space on the property and stated that the Committee would like to meet with the Agricultural commission tentatively on March 24, 2016 and that they are waiting for the report of the buildings on the property.

(Dracut Agricultural Commission Meeting Minutes of March 9, 2016)

Right to Farm By-Law Signs

Mr. R. Berube stated that he received a call from Brittney from the DeMoulas Family asking if she could purchase some Right to Farm By-Law Signs to post on their property. Mr. R. Berube stated that he wanted the Commission to discuss and approve the purchase of the signs to be located on private property.

Motion made by Mr. Brox to allow two Right to Farm By-Law signs to be purchased at Carbon Colors. Motion seconded by Mr. Neofotistos. Motion passed unanimously.

Town Manager's Farm Meeting

Mr. R. Berube reviewed the email dated March 1, 2016 from Caroline Zuk regarding the Farmer's Meeting with Town Manager Jim Duggan. Mr. R. Berube stated that Ms. Zuk would notify everyone on the list provided in the email and stated that all farmers are invited and asked the Commission to get the word out to the farmers' not on the list provided.

Discuss MAAC's February 27th, 2016 Meeting

Mr. R. Berube stated that he, Ms. Taplin and Mr. Ogonowski attended the MAAC meeting and discussed the protest happening against GMO's at the meeting. Mr. R. Berube stated that Ms. Betsy Ware, Community Development Director, also attended the meeting. Mr. R. Berube stated that the information provided at the meetings were real interesting and discussed the information provided at the meetings that were attended.

Correspondence

Mr. R. Berube reviewed the email dated March 8, 2016 from Betsy Ware regarding the Dracut Agricultural Commission's website and farmers' markets. Mr. R. Berube stated that he would invite Ms. Ware to the next meeting to discuss the website and farmers' markets.

Old Business

Mr. Brox discussed the proposed compressor station and discussed the letter the Board of Health sent to the Board of Selectmen opposing the Kinder Morgan pipeline and the compressor station.

Mr. Couture discussed the Methuen Street compressor station and discussed the unknown frack gas from Pennsylvania with the new Kinder Morgan proposed project.

Mr. Brox stated that this project is going to affect future development in East Dracut.

Ms. Taplin discussed Methuen's ban on heavy trucking on Wheeler Street. Ms. Taplin stated that this will affect Mr. Dana Taplin's business.

(Dracut Agricultural Commission Meeting Minutes of March 9, 2016)

The Commission discussed the Town line on Wheeler Street, the Town of Methuen's decision and the residents at the Regency Complex not agreeing with the Town of Methuen's past Wheeler Street agreement.

The Committee discussed the Wheeler Street issue having to go to the Mass DOT.

Motion made by Mr. Ogonowski to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Mr. Neofotistos. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.



Robert Berube, Chairman