

**Beaver Brook Farm Committee
February 11 2016**

Present for the Committee: Chairman Ellis Neofotistos, Dave Paquin, May Paquette, Warren Shaw and Debra Dewitt Ahearn. Also present was Elizabeth Ware, Director of Community Development and Recording Secretary Samantha Carver. The meeting was held at the Town Hall in the 2nd floor conference room.

Absent: Andy Graham, Don Plummer

Present for this meeting was Helen Dunlap, Linda Kawa of Community Preservation, Bob Berube, Dan Berube and Albert Ogonowski of the Agricultural Commission

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. The Committee reviewed the minutes of past meetings.

Mr. Shaw made a motion to approve the minutes of December 17, 2015 as presented. Mr. Paquin seconded the motion. The motion carried with all members present on the minutes voting in favor.

Mr. Paquin made a motion to approve the minutes of January 14, 2016 as presented. Mrs. Paquette seconded the motion. The motion carried with all members present on the minutes voting in favor.

Mr. Paquin made a motion to approve the minutes of January 28, 2016 as presented. Mrs. Dewitt Ahearn seconded the motion. The motion carried with all members present on the minutes voting in favor.

The Committee asked about the person on the agenda Brittney Barb and how she ended up on the agenda. Ms. Ware stated that she and Town Manager Duggan had met with them to discuss their project on Totman Road. They are looking to start an educational farming center and the Town Manager felt that because the Beaver Brook Property was around the corner that it may be beneficial for this Committee to listen to their ideas. Mrs. Dewitt Ahearn agreed that it couldn't hurt to listen.

The Committee asked when the report from Mr. Pfeiffer would be ready. Ms. Ware reported that she has had several discussions with Mr. Pfeiffer and that he should have the report by next meeting. Mr. Neofotistos asked if it would be the complete report or a draft. Ms. Ware stated it probably will be a draft report, ninety-five percent complete.

Mr. Neofotistos stated that Mr. Plummer will not be at the next several meetings. The Committee discussed whether he could participate remotely. There was a discussion as to whether the Town had voted on allowing this type of participation to happen. There was some confusion as to whether this could happen. Town staff will look into the specifics.

Ms. Ware reported that Jennifer Hashley of New Entry Sustainable Farming has reached out to her to set up a walk-through of the Beaver Brook Farm. She had availability Tuesday or Thursday of this month and she is working on setting this up.

Ms. Brittney Barb of D&D Management, Fotene DeMoulas, Tom Cote and Brianna Lawless arrived at the meeting.

Ms. DeMoulas explained that she had inherited this property on Totman Road and it was always a farming property and she was looking to bring it back that heritage by making it a educational farming center. They have sent out an RFP for a famer to manage the property. They have had the soil tested and it is good farming soil. They are looking to provide a service for the community and have a lasting impact.

Ms. DeMoulas talked about the Cutter Farm which was owned by a cousin of hers. This is an equestrian center and has been that for many years. There was a discussion on the manure spreading in the fields and how they had to stop that practice due to the shavings in the manure.

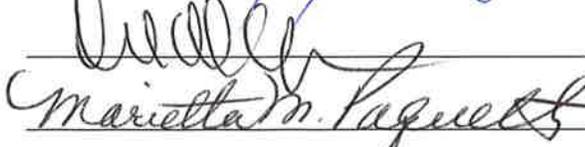
The group discussed whether the Beaver Brook Farm buildings could be used as some type of distribution center for vegetables. The Committee talked about a farmers market that Dracut used to have but that there are a lot of farm stands in Dracut so the farmers market didn't really fare so well. There was a discussion on the CSA in the Town and how people buy into that. Ms. Dewitt Ahearn thought this would be a good opportunity for educational aspects of farming to show how to grow, pick, can, preserve and cook vegetables.

The Committee thanked the group for coming in and sharing their ideas with them.

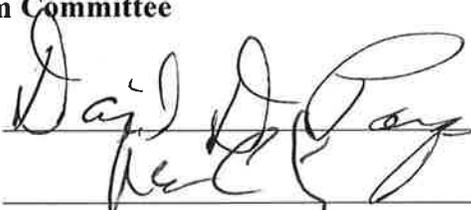
Ms. Dewitt Ahearn made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 p.m. Mr. Paquin seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Beaver Brook Farm Committee





Absent: Don Plummer



Absent: Andrew Graham
