

**Agricultural Commission
Minutes of December 9, 2015
Harmony Hall**

Present: Robert Berube, Norma Taplin, Albert Ogonowski, Don Couture, John Brox, Daniel Berube, Ellis Neofotistos and Recording Secretary Shannon Rowe Beaulieu

Absent: Caroline Zuk, Mark Shaw and David Dumaresq

Mr. R. Berube opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Mr. Couture to approve the Minutes of October 14, 2015. Motion seconded by Mr. Neofotistos. Motion passed unanimously.

Right to Farm Signs

Mr. R. Berube stated that he has seen about five signs up around Town and the Public Works Department is still putting up the rest and they look great.

The Committee discussed the locations of the Right to Farm Signs.

Mr. Neofotistos stated that the Committee should send a letter of thanks to Mr. Buxton, Public Works Director.

Richardson Middle School Greenhouse

Mr. R. Berube discussed the greenhouse at the Richardson Middle School and stated that he was approached by the School as they want to get the greenhouse going and would like help from the Committee.

Mr. R. Berube stated that the greenhouse has become a storage shed at the School over the years.

Mr. Neofotistos discussed the greenhouse being part of the building.

Mr. R. Berube stated that he has an appointment next week to look at the greenhouse and the Committee could talk more about it at their next meeting.

Mr. R. Berube discussed the Committee helping out with the greenhouse or individual Committee members wanting to help with it.

Mr. Neofotistos stated that the School might want to have Mike Maguire, Food Services Director, help with the greenhouse.

(Dracut Agricultural Commission Meeting Minutes of December 9, 2015)

Old Business

Mr. R. Berube discussed the Topsfield Bootcamp and stated that the Committee was the best represented by having four members there.

Mr. Brox stated that there was good information discussed at the Bootcamp and they stated that they would be having more meetings.

Mr. D. Berube discussed the Legislation that is being supported by the Farm Bureau discussed at the Bootcamp.

Mr. Brox stated that he was approached by the Corey's and they were asking about the water and manure on their property and having to go before the Conservation Commission. Mr. Ogonowski suggested that the Corey's contact NRCS in Westford, MA for help with any Conservation Commission filings.

Mr. Neofotistos stated that the Beaver Brook Farm Visioning Committee has been meeting weekly and discussed the possible bike paths, nature paths, the Beaver Brook Bridge, Dracut Cable Access looking to relocate and various other visions for the property. Mr. Neofotistos discussed inviting Jennifer Hashley from the New Entry Sustainable Farm Bureau to future Vision Committee meetings and having a structural engineer looking at the buildings on the property as some buildings may be salvageable. Mr. Neofotistos stated that they are creating a time table and having a consultant to help with the project. Mr. Neofotistos stated that Ms. Ware, Community Development Director, would also be working on the project as well as helping with any available grants for the project. Mr. Neofotistos stated that any ideas or input from the Agricultural Commission would be appreciated. Mr. Neofotistos discussed the soils on the property and water being available on the property.

New Business

Mr. R. Berube stated that the 2015 Annual Report for the Committee needs to be completed.

The Committee discussed the information that should be included in the Annual Report, such as; Annual Meeting in Sturbridge, Agricultural Day at the State House, Farm Tour with Senator L'Italien, Old Home Day booth, Right to Farm Signs, Topsfield Bootcamp, New Entry Farm visits and Members of the Committee.

The Committee scheduled the next meeting for January 13, 2016.

Mr. Ogonowski stated that the Vegetable and Fruit meetings are being held next week in Manchester, NH.

Mr. Ogonowski discussed the Farm Bureau meetings he attended last week.

(Dracut Agricultural Commission Meeting Minutes of December 9, 2015)

Motion made by Mr. Couture to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Mr. D. Berube.
Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.



Robert Berube, Chairman