

Town of Lunenburg

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION
P.O. Box 135
Lunenburg, MA 01462-0135



James Lattanzi, Chairman
Garrett Stillman, Vice-Chairman
Jeffrey Mendoza, Clerk
Douglas MacMillan, Member
Renee Trakimas, Member

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION **June 20th, 2013 Meeting Minutes**

The first meeting of the Lunenburg Agricultural Commission opened with guidance from Town Clerk Kathy Herrick, completing the swearing in of members and directing the election of officers. James Lattanzi was elected Chairman, Garrett Stillman was elected Vice-Chairman, and Jeffrey Mendoza was elected Clerk.

General discussion followed. The goal of the commission is to further the preservation, promotion and protection of open land to be used for agricultural endeavors. Encouraging more APR enrollment, protecting of both commercial and non-commercial agriculture, starting a 4H group, and asking the Lunenburg Ledger to feature local farms were included in the discussion.

The establishment of a Right to Farm by-law was discussed as a priority for the commission. Benefits would include participating in state funding opportunities and the establishment of "home-rule" so that concerns and questions residents may have concerning agricultural activities may be addressed at the local level rather than at the state level. Holding an informational meeting for the public was suggested to educate that the by-law's purpose would be primarily to protect the commercial and non-commercial agricultural privileges currently enjoyed by residents. The Open Space Committee has a current draft of the by-law. It was suggested that other town's Right to Farm by-laws be reviewed.

The growth of the Farmer's Market was discussed, including the moving of the event to Sunday 10 am to 1 pm, the first market to be June 30th. Increasing public awareness of the Farmer's Market was stated as a goal.

The meeting was opened to the public, and a general appreciation of the establishment of the Agricultural Commission was expressed. Points of discussion included the preservation of open farmland with regards to the expansion of residential building, the commission's ability to handle complaints between residential and agricultural land owners, and that much of Lunenburg's appeal lies in the open agricultural spaces we have. The commission's future role in Farmer's Market and the idea of pursuing a town Co-op to make local produce more readily available were also discussed.

The second meeting was scheduled for July 18th at 7:00 pm at the Ritter Building, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeffrey L. Mendoza