

# Town of Lunenburg

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



**Jeffrey Mendoza, Chairman**  
**Garrett Stillman, Vice-Chairman**  
**Maureen Dupuis, Clerk**  
**Douglas MacMillan, Member**  
**Renee Trakimas, Member**

## **AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION** **July 17, 2014 Meeting Minutes**

Meeting Posted: Yes  
Place: The Ritter Building  
Time: 7:00 p.m.

Present: J. Mendoza, G. Stillman, R. Trakimas, M. Dupuis

Minutes Approval: Motion to approve by M. Dupuis, Second by R. Trakimas. June 19, 2014 Minutes approved.

The Chairman called the meeting to order and welcomed Mr. Ebersole to the meeting

Jeffery Mendoza presented his resignation as Clerk, nominating Maureen Dupuis to the position. After a unanimous vote, the motion was passed in the affirmative. Chairman Mendoza will notify Town Manager Kerry Spiedel of the reorganization.

Renee Trakimas' term on the Commission has been extended to August 15<sup>th</sup> 2014 by the Board of Selectmen. Upon her re-appointment, she will serve a three year term, retroactive from July 1, 2014. M. Dupuis and G. Stillman are active members until July 1, 2016, and J. Mendoza and D. MacMillan are each active members until July 1, 2015.

At this time, M. Dupuis recused herself as a member of the Ag. Comm. for the purpose of a discussion regarding a bovine odor complaint of which she and her husband are the defendants. The Commission reviewed literature that had been presented to the Lunenburg Board of Health by Brad Mitchell of the Mass. Farm Bureau. A discussion ensued including clarification on open meeting laws if members of the commission were to attend a BoH meeting to assist in mediation. It was suggested by Selectman Ebersole that a general, written request for any agricultural complaints the BoH receives, be passed to the Ag. Comm. for resolution could be submitted to the chairman of the BoH by the chairman of the Ag. Comm. R. Trakimas suggested that, on the Ag. Comm. website, there be links to pools of information for solutions to both parties of any and all agricultural disputes. Selectman Ebersole said that it was the goal of the BoS to update the town website and that the Ag. Comm. could have a page connected to it.

G. Stillman reported that Wass Arthur can make 6 RTF signs with the monies we would receive if awarded a grant from the Mass. Assoc. of Ag. Comms. He will get clarification as to whether that is a quote only for the 18x24 signs or if it includes the posts. Jack Rodriquens can be contacted to see if we should/could use the same sign maker the town uses. What would the costs of posts and labor be or is this something the town could contribute? The commission reviewed the grant application and voted to have J. Mendoza submit it as written prior to the July 31<sup>st</sup> deadline.

Concerns regarding improving the livelihood of the Lunenburg Farmer's Market began and included a look into Farmer's Markets of surrounding communities, how they are thriving, and how Lunenburg's is different from each. Included were Shirley, Fair Haven, and Westminster. All have at least 18 vendors in comparison to our 4 and are located in a more open area, set back from a major roadway. Other markets have vendor applications as well as market policies readily available online or posted in a public building

and are not kept on a desktop in an office. Most of the policies are in line with Lunenburg's other than the requirement here that a farm producer file section F, creating a more restrictive management than other markets in the area. Some markets have a Jury in addition to a manager, which resolves disputes, addresses concerns, etc. Selectman Ebersole suggested that as a part of the Ag. Comm. program for 2015, if the commission so wishes, to include plans for being a part of the oversight of the market.

D. MacMillan was not present to report on the letters to farmer's update.

The 2015 Central Massachusetts Dairy Producers Twilight Barn Meeting will be held Tuesday August 12<sup>th</sup> 6-8:30pm at the Coopers Hill Top Dairy Farm.

The next meeting was scheduled for August 21, 2014 and the meeting was adjourned at 9pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Maureen C. Dupuis