

**Town of Lincoln Agriculture Commission
Meeting Tuesday, March 8th, 2022, at 7:30 PM
Meeting was by virtual conference
Minutes**

Present: Nancy Bergen, Louise Bergeron (co-chair), Lynne Bower, Linda Emanuel, Sherry Haydock, Ari Kurtz (co-chair), Corey Nimmer

1. Informing new Lincoln residents about our Right to Farm bylaw through a notification system for new residents.

Suggested language was sent around and received and generally approved of. We will introduce ourselves and the proposal at the Town Meeting on Mar 26th, as this presents an opportunity for people to get to know the Agriculture Commission and introduce the tradition of farming in Lincoln. Our co-chairs will be on the podium for the presentation. A remaining question of how new purchasers will be notified of the Right to Farm bylaw will be discussed at the Town Meeting.

2. Presentation on no-till gardening

Our presentation will be advertised along with Healthy Soils presentations to be given by Codman Farm. Ours will be on April 5 at 7p by zoom. The link will be included in Lincoln Talk and The Lincoln Squirrel. Additional ways to get the message out were discussed. Nancy Bergen will help distribute a flier.

3. Updating our brochure about Lincoln farms
See below.

4. Minutes approval

Action items to be kept only for the week in question or one more if follow through is relevant. No other corrections. Minutes approved.

5. Brief Additional Updates

- Mass Farm Bureau registration
All Agriculture Commission members will become members of the Bureau but only for Commission matters. Membership will be renewed annually.
- MDAR recommendations
In light of instances of bird flu, MDAR considered if chickens should be kept indoors. We had to decide between meetings how to discuss the MDAR. Sherry found Pete and others who confirmed that a few flu cases is not unusual. It was decided that it was not of concern and therefore of no reason to discuss it on Lincoln Talk.
- Ag Com website review
Linda reviewed and appreciated the website with its many resources and suggested that in the future we might add support/interest

groups. Sherry suggested, using the Historical Society as an example, that we record talks and store them on the website. Going forward, we will ask future presenters if they are willing to be recorded for this purpose.

- Updating our brochure about Lincoln farms
Karen Seo (not present today) and Sherry Haydock are working on reaching out to all Lincoln farms to allow for the brochure update.
- List of plants toxic for animals
Karen sent a long list. We considered how to distill so it's useful and palatable. Vets may have lists that are already distilled. Members of Ag Commission will look and make their own short list.
- Movies and pictures on agricultures in Lincoln
Corey is willing to take pictures. He has footage and will aim to have something ready in the coming weeks. Nancy has maple sugaring pictures.

6. Other Business

- The Orientation Package created by Lynne was discussed. It has an extensive history of the Agriculture Commission. It still needs to list our members.
- We discussed funding relevant projects. Karen Boise has 300 clients to whom they distribute food from Tanner Orchard, The Food Project and Drumlin Farm.
- The 2022 budget is \$6,093. We discussed which projects to fund, and considered: whether a separate entity on Linden Tree Farm could be created as a potential recipient; if we might purchase a csa for use by a town project; if we might earmark fund for getting food to food insecure refugees.
- We were happy to learn that Scott McCue from Drumlin Farm is open to participating in the Agriculture Commission.
- We discussed inviting Alex Pogany from the Food Project to come to a future meeting to discuss their work.

9:00p: The meeting was adjourned.