

Town of Lincoln
Minutes of the Agriculture Commission Meeting
Held on Tuesday, April 12, 2022 via Zoom teleconference

Members Present:

Voting: Louise Bergeron (co-chair), Nancy Bergen, Lynne Bower
Alternate Voting: Karen Seo

Members Absent:

Voting: Ari Kurtz (co-chair), Ellen Raja
Alternate Voting: Corey Nimmer, Sherry Haydock,

Visitors:

Linda Emanuel

7:40 pm – Meeting commenced

Minutes

Minutes for 2/8/2022 – Approved unanimously subject to agreed on changes
Minutes for 3/?/2022 – Approved unanimously subject to agreed on changes

No-Till event

There was a recent no-till presentation that the Ag Comm co-sponsored with the Garden Club. (It was included in the Healthy Soils series being offered by Codman Community Farms and Mothers Out Front). We should put together a table of the different farming approaches being used in Lincoln – Codman, Lindentree, Food Project, Hannan Healthy Foods. We could have a round table discussion next spring – what techniques are being used, what can you grow, what were the results.

A Lincoln Agricultural Commission Logo

There was agreement that it would be good to have an Ag Comm logo.

- ** 4/12/2022 Action Item** – Lynne to find out who designed logo for the Soil Talks series and also look for local design/graphics professionals via Lincoln Talk.
- ** 4/12/2022 Action Item** – Linda to try drafting a logo for the Ag Comm
- ** 4/12/2022 Action Item** – Lynn to resend her Ag Comm logo to everyone.
- ** 4/12/2022 Action Item** – All to review Lynn's Ag Comm logo

Right to Farm (RTF) bylaw amendment at Town Meeting

The RTF amendment adds a requirement for notification of prospective buyers and renters of Lincoln property about the RTF bylaw. It was approved but there were a lot of No's. The amendment does not include any enforcement mechanism. Note: Weston made notifying folks about the RTF obligatory. . The Ag Comm will need to do more promotion of the bylaw and the amendment, e.g., via:

- Ag Comm website

- Lincoln town website
- Town Hall
- Lincoln Annual Report
- Realtors
- Real estate lawyers
- Water bills

We need a draft of the RTF form/letter. The amendment says it should say:

It is the policy of the Town of Lincoln to conserve, protect and encourage the maintenance and improvement of agricultural land for the production of food and agricultural products, and also for its natural and ecological value. This disclosure notification is to inform buyers and occupants that the property they are about to acquire or occupy lies within a town where farming activities occur. Such farming activities may include, but are not limited to, activities that cause noise, dust, and odors. Buyers or occupants are also informed that the location of property within The Town may be impacted by commercial agricultural operations including the ability to access water services for agricultural use under certain circumstances.

**** 4/12/2022 Action Item** – Louise to talk to Ari re: draft of the letter notifying people of the RTF bylaw

One-bed Farm

Ari reported on a non-profit, one-bed farm that produces 300 salads twice a year – Note that the Food Pantry said they need greens in large quantities of greens periodically.

Additional items

We need to

- follow up with Food Project re: delivery shortfall last year.
- plan on where to spend Ag Comm funding – discuss options in addition to funding local farms to provide food to the food pantry.

9:35pm – Meeting adjourned.