

**Town of Lincoln**  
**Minutes of the Agriculture Commission Meeting**  
**Held on Tuesday, August 16, 2022 via Zoom teleconference**

**Members Present:**

Voting: Louise Bergeron (co-chair), Ari Kurtz (co-chair), Nancy Bergen, Lynne Bower  
Alternate Voting: Sherry Haydock, Linda Emanuel, Karen Seo

**Members Absent:**

Voting: Ellen Raja  
Alternate Voting: Corey Nimmer

**7:40pm – Meeting commenced**

**Farm to food pantry grant update**

\$5280 was allocated to farms as follows:

- \$2200 Drumlin Farm
- \$1000 Codman Community Farms
- \$1300 Hannan Agro
- \$ 800 Kanner Family Orchards
- \$ 400 Matlock Farm
- \$ 120 Peaches and Honey

Ari created an “invoice” form (see Appendix A) that each Farm will use to obtain the funds it was awarded.

**Performance to-date:**

- Codman Farm delivered eggs
- Hannan Agro delivered tomatoes
- Matlock Farm delivered corn
- Drumlin Farm delivered a variety of produce

**Shortfall in delivery** -- We discussed what to do if a farm does not meet its contractual obligations, e.g., due to the drought. There was general agreement to treat a shortfall due to drought as an acceptable best effort and to neither ask for return of funds nor roll funds into the next year. We agreed to wait and see how the farms do before making any formal decisions.

**Monitoring deliveries** -- There was a discussion re: the need to monitor how the farms are doing. At the end of the growing season, the farms are contractually obligated to report to the Ag Comm on what they delivered. However, we agreed that we should monitor how the farms are doing throughout the growing season, not just at the end. This

monitoring should not involve burdensome reporting requirements. Basically, each time a farmer delivers something to the Food Pantry, the following information should be recorded in a way that the Ag Comm could access – date, kind and quantity of each food delivered, signature of Farmer. (Should we include signature of the person receiving the delivery? Ideally, he/she should verify the types and quantities.) A possible procedure for tracking deliveries would be for Karen Boyce (Food Pantry) to keep a ledger in which the farmer would record the details of his/her delivery and would sign. This would eliminate the need for the farmer to bring a written report.

### **MDAR Local Food Purchasing Assistance Grant Program**

MDAR has issued an Request for Response for a Local Food Purchasing Assistance Grant Program. It will award grants for purchasing food from local (socially disadvantaged) farms and distributing it to underserved communities. (See <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/local-food-purchase-assistance-cooperative-agreement-program>.) It does not look as if the Ag Comm would be eligible to apply. “Eligible applicants must be legally recognized entities within the Commonwealth and must have the ability to enter a legally binding agreement with the Commonwealth.” Food pantries are eligible.

**On Thursday August 18, 2022 at 6:00pm**, an informational webinar where questions may be asked will be held for interested applicants. Please contact Rebecca Davidson at [Rebecca.Davidson@mass.gov](mailto:Rebecca.Davidson@mass.gov) to request access to the webinar. The webinar will be 1 to 1.5 hour(s) in length, and cover the LFPA Grant Program and provide information on accessing the MassGrown [Exchange platform](#). Please note: This webinar will be recorded and made publicly available on MDAR’s [LFPA web page](#) prior to the application deadline so that all potential applicants who are unable to attend the webinar live or who wish to further review the webinar’s content may do so before submitting an application.

**\*\* 8/16/2022 Action Item** – Ari to tell Karen Boyce (Food Pantry) about the Request for Response for a Local Food Purchasing Assistance Grant Program.

Ari recently met a new Food Project person (Heath) who is working on community outreach

**\*\* 8/16/2022 Action Item** – Ari to invite Heath (Food Project) to a future Ag Comm meeting (not the next one but maybe the one after that.)

**\*\* 8/16/2022 Action Item** – Louise to invite Karen Boyce (Food Pantry) to next Ag Comm meeting and send her the agenda

### **Logo**

The design was approved unanimously. Winner is Stephanie Smoot. There was only one other contestant, who has been thanked. (See Appendix B)

Next step is to get the “winner’s” \$200 check to Stephanie Smoot.

**\*\* 8/16/2022 Action Item** – Sherry to send to Louise, the email address of the winner of the logo contest.

**\*\* 8/16/2022 Action Item** – Louise to take care of getting the \$200 award to the winner of the logo contest.

We need to figure out how/where to incorporate the logo into our efforts?

**\*\* 8/16/2022 Action Item** – Louise to ask Stephanie Smoot for a higher resolution version of the winning logo – jpeg or photo.

### **Water Conservation and Farming**

Linda proposed forming a group to share thoughts and plans for future farming efforts in the face of climate change. This could include suggestions for how to handle drought, how to save water, Ag Comm recommendations, water restrictions (how enforced, how to provide feedback), etc. This will be discussed at next meeting. An initial committee was formed – Linda, Louise, Lynne, Sherri

**\*\* 8/16/2022 Action Item** – Sherri to talk to Pete Lowey (Codman Farm) for ideas re farming in the face of climate change.

The Ag Comm needs to provide recommendations to the Water Commission.

### **Next Meeting**

The September meeting will be held at Stonegate Gardens.

**\*\* 8/16/2022 Action Item** – Nancy to contact Corey about attending meetings

**\*\* 8/16/2022 Action Item** – Lynne to contact Ellen about attending meetings

### **Minutes**

July 2022 minutes -- approved (unanimously).

**9:??pm – Meeting adjourned**

Appendix A – Invoice Form for obtaining Farm to Pantry grants

Appendix B – Logo – winning design

