



**MINUTES  
AGRICULTURE COMMISSION  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2017  
OLD TOWN HALL  
7:00 P.M.  
REGULAR MEETING**

Present: Ronald Gross, Carleen Quinn, Bonnie Buongiorne, Mark Henderson, Peter Dean,

With a quorum present, the meeting was called to order by Ronald Gross, Chair, at 1910, and a Moment of Silence was observed in remembrance of September 11, 2001. The previously circulated agenda was approved by unanimous vote, as were the minutes from the July 10, 2017 Special Meeting.

The Chairman's Report focused on the upcoming year and changes that he would propose regarding scheduled meetings and proposed topics to be discussed in the future. Specifically, the Agriculture Commission is required to have one meeting per quarter of the calendar year; so as to be most effective and considerate of people's time, and yet correlate with the growing season, it was proposed that monthly meetings be held from January through August, and that the last quarter of the year would have only two meetings, one in September and one in December. As this was discussed only for consideration by the Commission, a vote was not taken. It was agreed that members of the Commission would start now to schedule lectures that had been previously discussed. Dr. Gross said that he would look into the purchase of an appropriate recording device so that it would be easier for the Commission secretary (yet to be "elected") to record the minutes.

A Thank You note from Shaleen Thody was received, thanking the Commission for its financial support of the Middle School garden project. This note was read to the Commission.

Agriculture Commission membership was discussed next. Applications from Ronald Distefano and Lynn Branscombe for membership on the Agriculture Commission were received, and the following discussions and actions were taken:

1. A motion was made and duly seconded to recommend the reappointment Mark Henderson as an Alternate Member of the Agriculture Commission for a two year term was approved unanimously, after he voiced his desire to continue as a member, to the Board of Selectmen (BOS).
2. A motion was made and duly seconded to recommend to the BOS that Bonnie Buongiorne transition from Alternate Member to Regular Member to fill vacancy created by the resignation of Marianne Halpin. The motion was approved unanimously after she voiced her desire to accept the transition.
3. The applications of Ronald Distefano and Lynn Branscombe for appointment to the Agriculture Commission were now considered. Unfortunately, Ms. Branscombe was not present and could not be interviewed by the members of the Commission. Mr. Distefano discussed with the Commission why he felt that he would be a valued addition to the Commission. A motion was made and duly seconded to recommend to the BOS that Mr. Distefano be appointed to the Agriculture Commission as an Alternate member.

The above recommendations will be conveyed to the BOS by the Chair of the Agriculture Commission.

Discussion regarding future meetings and potential actions and lectures to be coordinated/sponsored by the Agriculture Commission

Organic Farming

Animal Husbandry

Middle School Garden Project

Multiple comments and opinions from the audience again focused around the contentious issues previously discussed regarding ordinances, and what Mr. Olzaki and Mr. Ventres had previously discussed. The Chair agreed to ask both gentlemen to attend a meeting when they would be available, and in the interim the Chair would seek out any available information. The Chair did, however, make it clear that ordinances could not be instituted by the Agriculture Commission; its only function was as an advisory body to the BOS.

A move for Adjournment was seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 2020.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ronald Gross