

**Town of Bridgewater Massachusetts
Agricultural Commission
Meeting Minutes 1/24/17**

1. Meeting was called to order at 7:40 pm. Brian Alves, David Anderson and Lori Tunewicz-Gavin were Agricultural Commission members present. Brian Alves presided over the meeting.
2. Meeting minutes from last month were read and accepted as read.
3. This meeting's agenda was approved by the commission.
4. Time for public comments-no public present.
5. Communication- NA
6. Reports of Sub Committees- NA
7. Unfinished business-

A. Establish a procedure for dealing with agricultural complaints. This will be a work in progress.

1. Obtain description of complaint and details.
2. Determine course of action which may include:
 - a. A drive-by
 - b. Visit/inspection and documentation (this may be initiated by an introductory visit, leaving a brochure about the Agricultural Commission, its mission and the reason for the visit.
 - c. Bring back findings to the next meeting.

B. Update on Agricultural Commission Brochure (Brian):
Brian will continue to work on this.

C. Research update on

1. State Agricultural Law- The commission decided to begin to look at state decisions/lawsuits involving agriculture through Google Scholar to help increase our knowledge of Massachusetts state agricultural laws and precedents.
2. Statutory Supreme Court decisions regarding roosters and other hot topics- in process.
3. Manure regulations-in process

6. New Business

A. Discuss the need for joining state level groups and organizations- The commission voted to join Massachusetts Association of Agricultural Commissions last meeting and submitted our membership form to the Town Manager. Lori was contacted by the president of MAAC regarding our membership, requesting member emails. We replied to the president of MAAC during the meeting.

B. Discuss plans for any new complaints- No new complaints have been filed. The commission discussed the procedure for complaints that are initiated by a citizen attending a meeting. The commission agreed that we should continue to have written complaints sent to the Town Manager. The commission will take a complaint that is brought forth during an Ag Com meeting under advisement and direct the complainant to submit their written concerns to the Town Manager.

8. Public Comments-NA
9. Miscellaneous-

The commission examined discussed Wareham's recent livestock regulation proposal. This proposal will be

discussed at Wareham's next Board of Health meeting. The commission indicated that it would be important to have our Agricultural Commission present at this meeting, supporting the agricultural activities of the region.

The commission reviewed the dates of the Annual Meeting of MAAC-Saturday February 25, 2017 10-4 at the Topsfield Fairgrounds. Members would like to attend as their schedules allow.

Annual Agricultural Day at the State House is Tuesday April 4, 2017. Ag com members would like to attend as their schedules allow.

Next meeting February 28, 2017 at 7:30 at the Academy Building.

Meeting adjourned at 9:04 pm.