

Holliston Agricultural Commission

MINUTES

08 June 2021 at 7pm

Agenda Items

1. Call to order 7pm
2. Roll call PJ, Carrie, Evan, Cherie in attendance
3. Approved May 20 2021 minutes
4. Public Comment None

OLD Business

1. Farms Day Sept 12

- a) PJ has about 15 yard signs but suggests considering investing in new ones. Had the same ones for last 12 years, putting duct tape over the date and writing in new date.

PJ will drop them off at Carrie's house along with the tent and garden plot checks.

- c) Confirmation of farms that will be participating. It has historically been difficult to engage the commercial farmers in communication. Carrie created an email letter and an email list with all but 3 of the emails for the farms. One farm has also sold. Carrie will update list and email to AgCom members.

After the letter is sent, Evan will drop off a printed version with each farm.

- b) Deadline to included in the map and description list handout is **August 6**.

Deadline for the Holliston Local Town Pages is **August 15**.

Cherie will create the map/description brochure and the posters and arrange for printing.

2. Decision on Butterfly House and Community Gardens. Carrie talked to Town Administrator Travis Ahearn about options and protocols (dismantling the butterfly house, handing off Community Garden plots to another Board or Committee, etc.) He will investigate and get back to her. One possibility is to develop a Friends of Holliston group. Also suggested was moving the plots under the Community Farm as a second "satellite" location in addition to the community garden plots offered at the Community Farm. PJ said there is not enough help available to manage them. He suggested sending an update to those renting the plots this year, letting them know this is the last year unless someone is willing to manage them.

Evan will follow up with AJ at Outpost to see if he is interested in joining AgCom.

3. Updates: Evan agreed to update all social media, Cherie will update the town and AgCom websites, and will notify the Holliston Reporter.
 - a) new chair is Carrie Marsh, PJ resigned, Evan Reseska is new member
 - b) Two open seats

NEW Business

1. Reorganize. Our Holliston bylaws state we are a right-to-farm community. We are to be reminding people in Holliston of this on an annual basis. It was noted Medway has banners announcing this. Holliston will include this in the Farm Day material.
2. Email survey to farmers. Single question online survey to find out what most concerns the Holliston farmers.
3. Communicate to qualifying farms available funding: MDAR request for response: Buy Local program FY22 and USDA LAMP grants and grants to develop and support food businesses. DEADLINE was June 11.

An intern at the Sustainable Business Network of MA reached out to Evan about an “Eat Local MA” app. It includes “MA farms, farmers markets, breweries, and restaurants that are sourcing from local farms” and is designed to help consumers “buy local, eat local.”

4. 28 June is the MAAC AgCom Boot Camp (via Zoom) on Legislative Update re: Agricultural Commission’s input on Board of Health Regulations. Evan is attending and will report at the next AgCom meeting.

NEXT MEETING DATE: July 13

Adjourned 7:41pm

Minutes approved at 13 July 2021 meeting