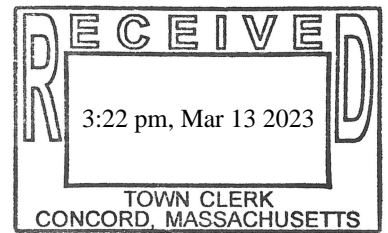


Ag Committee Meeting
Virtual Meeting Via Zoom
Thursday, February 9, 2023
7:00 PM



Attendees

Melissa Maxwell, co-chair, Barrett's Mill Farm
Liza Bemis, co-chair, Hutchins Farm
Steve Verrill, member, Verrill Farm
Grace Scimone, associate member, Scimone Farm
Rosanne Scimone, Scimone Farm
Lise Holdorf, Barrett's Mill Farm
Happy Goethert, member, Scimone Farm
Joe Rogers, clerk, associate member
Brian Cramer, Hutchins Farm
Lois Suarez, pollinator committee
Polly Vanasse, Gaining Ground Board
Sue Mildrum, Gaining Ground Board

Meeting opened 7:03 PM Melissa chaired the meeting.

Review Minutes: Minutes reviewed, lightly edited. Joe moved to approve as edited, Melissa seconded.

News about Concord Farms and Farmers: Steve is in Tortuga. His employee housing is progressing against deadlines. Hutchins new greenhouse almost done. Melissa considering a new well, possibly shallow. Hutchins shallow well gives 150 gmp only 20' deep. Grace & Rosanne are selecting seeds for the new season.

Spring Forum Discussion: Lois alerted us that our proposed date of March 29th is the same as the date of a pollinator group event at the library. We will try to move spring forum to April 25 or 26. Melissa will talk to Harvey Wheeler about the other dates. Titles for the Spring Forum still being discussed. Likely title might be Brian's "Turning the soil, the dirt on till and no till." Plus something like... "A presentation by Sam Corcoran of UMASS Agriculture about what tillage is, with a discussion by local farmers about what tillage means for Concord farms." Filming the event might be possible. Liza will talk to Minuteman Media about this. Even a zoom of the event can be considered. Pre-registration for the event might be on line making use of our web sites. This would also make possible for the public to propose questions to the forum in advance. Melissa will email Dan about using his friend's projector since the Harvey Wheeler center doesn't have one. Once date is finalized and everyone is confirmed, Melissa will send out final details to Ag email list and will work on a electronic poster.

Town Paper Bag charge update: Not currently a priority to select board or health board. Liza will email Henry Dane how to proceed. We'd like to be able to advise/adjust the regulation before it comes into effect.

Farm Tour- Colonial Gardens: Happy has arranged a Colonial Gardens greenhouse tour being, might be on March 7 at 3pm, she will check with them to see if that time works. Liza will send out invite to Ag Committee email list if it does. Lois asked if the pollinator committee could be invited, Liza will email Mark to invite them.

Farm Videos Update: Walden Farm video is up and running and quite good. Tory is willing to do more. Scimone, Marshall, Gaining Ground have all expressed interest. Liza will coordinate more videos during the summer – asked folks to consider what they wanted to highlight. Any other long projects that farms wanted to film over the course of a year Tory was also interested in filming.

Quick Ag Day logistics and update: Book store window is booked for Aug 28th to 5th. Happy volunteers to make display. Living plants as the display was discussed. Liza will email Happy the requirements from the bookstore. Can AG Day be filmed this year? Liza will talk to Minuteman media.

Committee Member Terms: This May a few folks terms are up: Eliza, Dan, Steve. Renewals are encouraged. Nelson possible for the future?

Other Business: MELISSA IS EXPECTING A BABY IN JULY! Committee approved unanimously. 250th Committee has a slogan: “Still heard around the world”.

Melissa and Lise leave the zoom at this point:

Liza took over chairing the meeting to discuss: A Request for Proposals for the lease at Barrett’s Mill Farmstead property has been announced. The AG Committee was requested by the Natural Resources Dept to send a representative to be part of the RFP process. Liza nominated Brian as our representative, Grace seconded that nomination. Was voted unanimously yes, and committee approved Brian to represent AG Committee in this matter. Liza will email Delia with his contact information.

Liza texted Melissa that the RFP discussion was over, and she re-joined the zoom and took over chairing the meeting again.

Melissa said if there are any other agenda items for next month meeting please let her know. Also, Melissa will put in request for light plant banner for Ag Day assuming town will cover the cost as usual. Liza will update the ag day website with the spring forum info once it is settled, and will also add it to concord living and the town calendar.

Public comment: None

Next meeting March 9th No objections, was set for March 9th on zoom.

Liza moved to adjourn the meeting, Happy Seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 8:28PM