

AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMISSION

Town of Dudley, MA

Est. 2019



Dudley Agricultural Advisory Commission
Meeting Minutes of January 6, 2022
Dudley Municipal Complex-Room 315 | 7:00pm

In attendance:

Victor Kallgren
Krisanne Koebke
Linda Lorkiewicz
Lanette Lepper
Katie Rozenas-Hanson

Meeting began at 7:04pm with a call to order by Chairman Victor Kallgren. Group stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Reviewed minutes from March 2021 meeting, Krisanne made a motion to approve the minutes and Victor seconded the motion. All members in favor and motion passes.

Welcome to Stephen and Ellen Laprise, who are in attendance and recording our meeting.

Debra Easterbrook, our Secretary, has left her seat on the board. We want to thank her for all of her hard-work and dedication! We also want to thank Paul Weiloch for all of his hard-work and dedication!

Election of Officers: Since we didn't meet in July, we must elect officers today. Currently Victor is serving as Chair, Krisanne is serving as Vice-Chair, and Debra Easterbrook was Secretary. Victor would like to step down as chair and we need to fill the Secretary seat. Lanette made a motion to elect Katie as Secretary and Krisanne seconded the motion. All members in favor and motion passes. Lanette made a motion to elect Linda as Chair and Krisanne seconded the motion. All members in favor and motion passes. Victor made a motion to elect Krisanne as Vice Chair and Linda seconded the motion. All members in favor and motion passes.

Welcome to New Members: The board welcomed new members Lanette Lepper and Katie Rozenas-Hanson. Lanette is the owner of Armstrong Acres in Dudley, where she has a cut flower subscription delivery service and heirloom seedlings. Katie Rozenas-Hanson currently works for the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources as the MA Dairy Promotion Board Coordinator and the Agricultural Markets Outreach Coordinator. Katie's parents and paternal grandparents owned and operated Rozenas Farm in Dudley and Katie grew up working on her maternal grandparent's farm in Oxford.

Review of Commission Role: We are an advisory committee serving other boards in town. We are sponsored by the economic development committee and we are comprised of 3 town farm owners and 2 at-large community members. We do not make laws but instead offer advice, to other boards, on agricultural matters that occur in town.

Old Business: Linette stated that we had asked for a \$1500 budget to assist in creating and purchasing Right to Farm signs to be placed on all town lines. These include: Rt 31, Oxford Ave, Schofield Ave, and Dudley Oxford Road. Krisanne asked what it means to be a Right to Farm Community. Linda responded that a Right to Farm Community, means that the town has a right to pursue agriculture. Based on the legislation: "This General By-law encourages the pursuit of agriculture, promotes agriculture based economic opportunities, and protects farmlands within the Town of [FarmTown] by allowing agricultural uses and related activities to function with minimal conflict with abutters and Town agencies. This By-law shall apply to all jurisdictional areas within the Town." (<https://www.mass.gov/doc/model-right-to-farm-by-law/download>)

We also wanted to purchase a banner for events and meetings. Looking to get a quote from Choice1 Graphics.

New Business: Linda asked for suggestions for new agricultural events or educational ideas/opportunities. Linette mentioned potentially hosting a plant sale the Saturday after Mother's Day. Maybe we could do a "plant hop" and encourage people to go around town to producers to purchase their plant seedlings. Katie suggested maybe doing a passport for this event, where participants get a "passport" stamped at each location, to encourage participants to go to every plant hop location. Katie asked about farmer's market in town. Krisanne responded that we would need a manager and we are unsure if we have enough vendors in town to participate. Katie mentioned if we do have a market, maybe we should try to target low-income families through the use of SNAP/EBT (our vendors would have to accept it). What are the logistics of that though? Maybe instead we can do a farmer's market in tandem with other agricultural events in town i.e., Strawberry Festival, Apple Festival, etc. Krisanne mentioned an organization she is a member of Local for Life. This organization looks to support agriculture financially and has members from Dudley, Charlton, Webster as well as Woodstock, CT and Thompson, CT.

Linda is hoping to learn more about how to update our website on the Town page.

Katie mentioned that the Worcester County Beekeepers Association school will be starting on March 3rd.

We are looking at February 3, 2022 as our next meeting date and we highly encourage the public to attend.

Linda made a motion to adjourn our meeting at 7:58pm and Victor seconded the motion. All in favor and motion passes.