

Sheffield Agricultural Commission  
October 19, 2021 – APPROVED

Present: Jim Kelly, Amelia Conklin, Kathy Orlando, and Bob Kilmer  
Ricky McLoughlin from the community

The meeting was called to order at 7:09 pm.

Minutes:

The minutes from the 9/14/21 meeting were approved as amended.

Pollinator-Friendly Community Resolution:

Kathy O. is still collecting links for the addendum, a practical “how-to” guide for implementing pollinator-friendly practices. Please send additional information to Kathy O.

Mail:

None.

Brochure:

The survey results are needed to move on to the next step. Kathy O. is working to find the box with the hard copy materials since moving, as the digital version was corrupted.

Role of the Ag Com in reviewing Board of Health regulations:

Jim K. attended the October Board of Health meeting and shared the news of the new 45-day review process for agriculture-related public health issues. Martin Mitsoff, select person and BOH chair, is proposing a new bylaw that would give the animal control officer (ACO) the authority to take action in the case of an animal welfare emergency. Under current law the ACO has limited authority in the case of a report of abuse or neglect. Bob K. will call the state animal inspector and Amelia C. will call the current Sheffield ACO to assess their opinions on the matter.

Treasurer report:

The Mt. Everett Future Farmers of America (FFA) students and teacher liaison are excited to begin projects with Ag Com support. Once an invoice is in hand, Kathy O. will get a check processed for the FFA.

Locally important soils project:

No updates.

New appointments:

Anna Mack declined to serve at this time due to lack of availability. Ricky McLoughlin was in attendance as a prospective commission member. He is a Sheffield dairy farmer and was encouraged to submit a letter of interest to the select board. Amelia C. will ask her sister, Kaileen Wolfe, if she would be interested in serving on the commission.

Local agricultural issues:

The issue of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) was recently addressed in October by president Biden. The letter to Larkin Farm regarding PFAS was discussed and a final draft was agreed upon. Amelia C. will get letterhead from Kathy O. and mail.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, November 16 at 7 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 8:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Amelia Conklin