

Sheffield Agricultural Commission
August 17, 2022 - APPROVED

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:22 pm.

Minutes:

Minutes from the following meetings were approved as amended: 10/19/21, 5/23/22, and 7/20/22.

Mail:

None.

PFAS:

Amelia C. investigated and presented information she found on the MDAR and MassDEP websites regarding the current regulations of PFAS in biosolids fertilizer in Massachusetts. Bob K. is in periodic contact with Ashley Randall, the MDAR assistant Commissioner, to stay up-to-date on the latest developments on PFAS in agriculture. As awareness and concern grow regarding the risks of PFAS in biosolids fertilizer, the Ag Com wants to ensure that applicators are using safe practices so that PFAS do not contaminate land or water in Sheffield. Bob K. will contact farms in Sheffield that use biosolids to inquire as to whether the companies they work with are complying with state testing requirements.

Election of officers:

The following officers were elected by unanimous decision:

Jim K. – chair

Kathy O. – treasurer

Amelia C. – secretary

Brochure:

Each Ag Com member signed up for a different aspect of gathering information for the brochure. The assignments are as follows:

Ricky M. – pounds of milk produced per year in Sheffield

Amelia C. – photos of Sheffield farms

Jim K. – a write up on the importance of agroforestry

Kathy O. – acreage of land in agricultural use and total number of farms

It was also mentioned that links to farm-friendly organizations should be included, such as Berkshire County Farm Bureau and Berkshire Grown.

Treasurer's report:

No report at this time.

The next meeting will be 9/28/22.

The meeting adjourned at 8:51 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Amelia Conklin