

Sheffield Agricultural Commission
May 3, 2017 Meeting Minutes - Approved

Present: Jim Kelly, Amelia Conklin, Kathy Orlando, Bruce Howden, Jimmy Larkin, Louis Aragi

Last meeting's minutes were not available and therefore will be reviewed for approval at the next meeting.

Bruce's and Louis' terms have ended. If they would like to continue to serve on the Ag Com, a written statement of interest needs to be sent to the Board of Selectmen in order for them to grant reappointment.

Amelia will look into updating the Ag Com page on the town website to reflect its current members. Amelia will look into which members are up for reappointment.

Jimmy Larkin suggested Ricky Boardman as a potential new Ag Com member. Jimmy will contact Ricky and let him know how to contact the town for appointment.

The treasurer reminded the commission that the funding from fiscal year 2016-2017 needs to be spent by June 30.

It was approved that the 2016-2017 annual budget would be spent on the following projects:

\$500: sponsorship of the Sheffield Farmers' Market

\$100: grant to Future Farmers of America (FFA) Mt. Everett chapter

\$400: stipend for Sheffield Farms brochure development

It was agreed that the Ag Com will hire someone to continue work necessary to complete the brochure. Specifically, this person will reissue the survey to Sheffield farmers and collect and organize the responses. This person will follow up with farmers by phone and/or email if necessary. This person will provide a monthly progress report. September 1 is the target date to get all of the information collected and organized.

Community members have approached the Board of Selectmen with concerns regarding Larkin Farm's fertilizer usage. The Ag Com asked Jimmy to provide the Ag Com with more information regarding the fertilizer at our next meeting, so that we are able to address citizens' concerns by providing accurate information.

Specific concerns include:

- odor and off gassing
- heavy metals
- effects on town water (zone 2)
- residues: medicines, etc.
- examples of where it's being used safely on other farms

Jimmy said he could provide a Safety Data Sheet at the next meeting, as well as invite a representative from the fertilizer company to attend a future meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 6:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Amelia Conklin