

Sheffield Agricultural Commission
May 17, 2017 – Approved

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

Attending from the community were Martin Mitsoff and Erna Lampman.

Martin requested that the Ag Com's minutes be posted on the town website. Amelia will look into this.

The last two meetings' minutes were approved as amended: June 17, 2016 and May 3, 2017.

Amelia will contact Danielle Melino regarding donating \$100 to the FFA program.

Erna Lampman was in attendance regarding assisting the Ag Com with its Sheffield farm brochure project. Erna will administer the survey. The target deadline to receive results is September 30, 2017 and the stipend is \$400. The committee, along with Erna, reviewed the Sheffield farmer list and made edits, deletions, and additions. This list will determine who is contacted regarding the brochure. Kathy will send around the edited list to all members and Erna. Discussion ensued regarding how to represent farmers who own land versus those who don't. The purpose of the farm brochure was then discussed. It was decided that farmers who rent land in order to make hay or grow crops but who don't sell to the public can be represented by an explanation on the back of the brochure, emphasizing the overall acreage in agricultural production and the importance of agriculture in our town.

Jim L. provided the Safety Data Sheet from the biosolids company.

Martin Mitsoff provided a fact sheet that included more information regarding the use of biosolids as fertilizer. He stated that the company's Safety Data Sheet didn't address the materials of concern: pharmaceuticals, antibacterials, and heavy metals.

Martin M. recommended an independent analysis of the product.

The committee decided on two initial action steps:

- Jim L. will contact a company representative to attend the next meeting
- Jim K. will contact UMass regarding their use of biosolids as fertilizer.

Jim L. will contact Ricky Boardman regarding joining the Ag Com.

The meeting adjourned at 6:28 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Amelia Conklin