

Sheffield Agricultural Commission
September 24, 2019 – Approved

Present: Jim Kelly, Amelia Conklin, Kathy Orlando, Bob Kilmer

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 pm.

Approval of minutes:

The minutes from the 8/15/19 meeting were approved as amended.

Treasurer's report:

There is nothing new to report. Amelia C. would like to speak with the auditor to clarify the parameters for Ag Com budget items.

Brochure:

Kathy O. worked with the town website tech support to solve the Ag Com email glitch. Kathy O. will give the letter and survey to Erna who will figure out addressing and mailing. Erna will follow up with farmers in two weeks from the date of the mailing, as stated in the letter.

Farming issues in town:

Bob K. did further research regarding testing procedures in our state for polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), which have been found on farms in other states across the country. State organizations, including Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR), are still looking into the issue and following the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) progress and recommendations. Bob K. shared that legislation has advanced toward forming a task force to study PFAS, and to determine methods to prevent PFAS overconsumption and mitigate their effects.

Pollinator-friendly community:

Amelia C. contacted the Martins with the questions the Ag Com had regarding their pollinator-friendly community initiative but did not hear back. She will contact them again to see if they are interested in pursuing it further.

Mail received:

A memo from the town announced an ethics training on 9/18/2019.

The next meeting will be 11/12 at 3:30 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 8:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Amelia Conklin