

Sheffield Agricultural Commission
May, 18 2021 – APPROVED

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm.

Approval of minutes:

Amelia C. will send past minutes for approval at next meeting.

Mail:

Bob K. reported from Town Hall:

- Thank you letter from the Sheffield Farmers' Market
- Amelia's re-appointment letter dated October 8th

Budget:

No updates at this time. Kathy O. will check on funds available.

Local Agriculture Issues:

None.

Locally important soils:

Al Averill, recently retired from the National Resources Conservation Service (a program of the Department of Agriculture) where he worked for many years as a state conservationist, has been working with communities in Massachusetts to identify locally important soils. He has been creating a locally important soils map using GIS and seeking community input to confirm or amend the historical soil records. He also overlays land in current agricultural production with land historically identified as important to see how they compare. The Board of Selectmen and/or chair of the Agricultural Commission gives permission for him to work the project in each town. Creating more accurate important soils maps can assist land protection and other programs such as the Agricultural Preservation Restriction program that require important soil as a criteria. Past studies were not thorough this far west from Boston. Kathy O. made a motion to allow Mr. Averill to conduct this study in Sheffield. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously. Kathy O. will find out where to send a letter of approval.

General Public Comments:

None

Update on Pollinator Friendly Communities:

No update. The commission will attempt to resubmit the most recent version at a later time.

Update on Brochure:

Amelia C. will look back at minutes to see where we left off and report at next meeting.

Support of Sheffield Farmers' Market:

Postponed to next meeting because too many farmers market committee members present.

Future meeting(s):

Tuesdays at 7 pm. June 15, 7 pm. Jim K. please post the meeting sooner with Felecie.

Kathy O. would like us to reach out to the Mt. Everett FFA program to see if we can support their programming. Amelia C. will reach out.

Respectfully submitted,
Amelia Conklin