

Sheffield Agricultural Commission  
June 18, 2019 – Approved

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:43 pm.

Approval of minutes:

The minutes from the 4/29/19 meeting were approved as amended. Amelia C. agreed to send a draft of meeting minutes to members within 48 hours of each meeting. The next two meetings will be held on 7/23 at 7:30 pm and 8/15 at 2 pm.

Treasurer's report:

Kathy confirmed that we have the full amount of the budget to spend for fiscal year 2018-19. The spending plan needs to be revised as the essay contest will not be able to be funded unless we can demonstrate its benefit to the Ag Com and the town. Kathy O. asked commission members for their input regarding other projects we can support in addition to the local Future Farmers of America (FFA) chapter and the Sheffield Farmers' Market. After discussion of various ideas including paying for a Greenagers' work crew to work on a Sheffield farm, the commission voted unanimously to spend \$500 with FFA, to help with the transition to the new advisor, and \$500 with the farmers market. Jim K. and Kathy O. are working with town counsel regarding the wording of the essay project.

Brochure:

Kathy brought the revised farmer letter and survey for final review. A few minor edits were made. Kathy will coordinate the printing and mailing of the letter with Rhonda LaBombard at town hall once the Ag Com email account is functional. Erna Lampman will be copied on all communications regarding the letter and survey, as she has been hired by the Ag Com to follow up on the survey and compile results.

Water safety and agriculture:

Jim K. brought the Sheffield Water Company Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) report, produced by the Mass. Dept. of Environmental Protection in 2003, which identifies the low, moderate, and high threats to Sheffield's public water supply. This was brought to the attention of the Ag Com in light of the recent meeting called by a concerned resident regarding perceived glyphosate (herbicide) levels in the water, which was based on a test that indicated no detectable levels of glyphosate. Jim K. would like to encourage Ag Com members to be aware of how agriculture impacts our public water supply and to determine our role in providing information, opinions, and finding solutions when these concerns arise. Bob K. will find out if there will be another meeting on the topic.

The meeting adjourned at 8:51 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Amelia Conklin