

Sheffield Agricultural Commission
September 18, 2017 – Approved

Present: Jim Kelly, Amelia Conklin, Kathy Orlando, Jimmy Larkin

The minutes from the last meeting, 6/9/17, were approved as amended.

New appointments:

Currently there are 3 vacancies and 2 alternate vacancies for the Ag Com.

Amelia will ask Ricky Boardman if he is interested in joining the Ag Com.

Bruce Howden, Louis Aragi, and Holly Aragi may be interested in serving but have not yet submitted their interest to the town administrator and selectmen. Jim Kelly will check in with these three potential members. If they are not interested, the Ag Com will brainstorm a list of other potential members.

Brochure:

The revised timeline for the Sheffield farm brochure is:

November 15: Kathy will submit the farmer list and survey to the Ag Com for review and editing

December 15: Ag Com members will submit feedback to Kathy

January 15: We will submit the final farmer list and copies of the survey to the town for mailing.

January 30: By this date, we expect the town will have had time to mail the surveys.

March 15: Stated deadline for responses.

March 30: Erna's target date to receive responses from all of those surveyed.

June 15: Target print date for brochure.

Treasurer's report:

In years past, the Ag Com has been able to support the Mt. Everett FFA (Future Farmers of America) chapter and the Sheffield Farmers Market, but the auditor is giving different feedback this year. Jim will ask the auditor for written guidelines of how funds are to be spent.

The Ag Com clarified the expenditures related to sponsoring the Sheffield Farmers' Market: the Ag Com is actually purchasing space on the market banner and website, a 10' x 10' vendor space, and one Shopper's Guide ad. Amelia will contact Danielle regarding details for supporting the FFA program.

Biosolids:

The Ag Com has looked into state and federal regulations regarding the use of biosolids as fertilizer and will share this information with the Larkin Farm in response to issues raised at a prior meeting.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, October 17 at noon.

Respectfully submitted,
Amelia Conklin