



Agricultural Advisory Board

Remote Meeting Minutes

February 10, 2021

7:00 - 8:30 PM

Attending: Ken Hartlage, Lucy McKain, Sherrill Rosoff
Guests: Mark Mathews, Tony Beattie,

The meeting came to order at 7:07 PM.

The meeting's agenda was to review the proposed presentation to the upcoming SelectBoard meeting of 2/22/21. The entire meeting was a slide by slide review of content and message. Overall, main message: there's been a significant loss of farms and if we continue down this path we will lose our agricultural community and rural character. Sherrill Rosoff should reach out to other local Ag Commissions and the Massachusetts Farm Bureau to find out how they're conserving farmland. Sherrill Rosoff reported that she has reached out to PACH (Susan McCarthy) and that PACH is interested in a future joint meeting. Discussion also included direct to consumer sales in the state and that the state is encouraging more consumption of local food. We consume a lot of what we produce. Finally, farms are a valuable resource in combating climate change.

Mark Mathews noted the economic multiplier effect of farms in our town and our message should be that farms are good for our community. Ken Hartlage noted that we should be asking our local farmers for their support of becoming an Agricultural Commission. That will mean having farmers attend the Spring Town Meeting to lend their support to the article.

Motion to adjourn was made by Lucy McKain, seconded by Ken Hartlage. Meeting adjourned at 8:27 PM.

Submitted by Sherrill Rosoff

