**Franklin Agricultural Commission**

**Meeting Minutes from January 27, 2020**

**Municipal Building 355 East Central Street**

**In Attendance:** Members Present**:** *Carly Fisher, Roger Trahan, & Marian Szymanski, and Linda Noel. Also present, Mel Hamblen, and CJ Koshivas.*

1. **Opening:**

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:06pm by Chairman Carly Fisher.
2. Roll Call: Four members of the Franklin Agricultural Commission were present.
3. Approval of the Minutes: The minutes from the November 25, 2019 Agricultural Commission meetings were not approved because the Town has not yet posted them.

**2. New Business:**

1. Pollinator Pasture Workday Planning- A suggestion was made to arrive I hour before the goats arrive to make sure that any trash is removed from the area where the goats will be grazing. (9:00am) All other volunteers will arrive at 10:00am. It was also suggested that we ask volunteers to bring wildflower seeds for spreading.
2. Winter Farmer’s Market – The first Winter Farmer’s Markets have been very successful. We will continue to build on this success in upcoming Markets. Carly F. suggested that we invite the children at the Market to decorate horse shoes with pipe-cleaners, ribbons, yarn, and stickers. Carly will supply these materials for the February Market.
3. Valuation Of Farm Land Leases- The Agricultural Commission has been asked to help set a price for the leasing of tillable land in Norfolk County. We have reached out to SEMAP and MAAC for suggestions.
4. Drone Issue at Clarion Farm – Carly reports not seeing any drones flying over her farm in recent weeks. Norfolk County has created legislation that will be brought to Massachusetts Legislators. The Commission agrees that the general public needs to be educated on the dangers that drones pose to farm animals.
5. 2020 Meeting Schedule – The Franklin Agricultural Commission will meet on the last Monday of each month. (With the exception of the month of May.)
6. 2020 Goals –
7. Use radio programs and the local T.V. stations to communicate with the residents of the town about agricultural issues.
8. Work with the staff and the students of Jefferson/Remmington schools to create a pollinator garden on the property. The town will give $300.00 to this project. The students will bring in used plastic and cardboard containers to start seeds indoors (nasturtiums, cosmos, and sunflowers).
9. Start a program that will encourage Franklin residents to create pollinator gardens in their yards. Pollinator garden signs would be available to home-owners who meet specific criteria.

**3. Old Business:**

A. Round-Up Opt Out – We will re-write our Opt-Out form to focus on the negative effects that the chemical had on pollinators.

B. 61 Outreach – We will send out letters and information to all 61 property owners.

C. Community Open Space – A meeting will be held on 2/5/2020 to discuss the possibility of getting the CPA approved at the November election. Members of the Franklin Agricultural Commission will attend this town meeting.

**Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned by Linda Noel and Roger Trahan at 8:45pm

Minutes submitted by: Marian Szymanski