



**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
TOWN OF NEW MARLBOROUGH
OFFICE OF THE AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION
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**Minutes of Agricultural Commission Meeting
Monday, January 10, 2017
5 p.m.**

Commission Members Present: Jan Johnson
Tom Brazie
John Miller
Eli Cook

Also Present: Steve Cunningham

The meeting of the Agricultural Commission convened at 5:04 p.m. The minutes were read. A motion was made, seconded and so voted to approve the minutes of November 7, 2016.

Massachusetts Association of Agricultural Commissions ("MAAC")

Eli Cook led a discussion, reporting about his conversation and distributing a handout. MAAC has no current funding available for grants but has templates and advice available and there is no charge for joining. NMAC will join. Eli will complete the paperwork.

Neighboring Ag Commissions

Sheffield seems to be the most active and has produced a brochure of where farms are located and what they grow. Berkshire Grown plans to organize soon a regional meeting of Ag Coms.

Farmers' Market Planning

Peter Platt supports having a market on the village green and may buy from farmers there. Gedney will participate in the market by taking a booth. Tom does not favor considering a move instead to the NM Land Trust land because parking for Burritt Day has already damaged the grass there. Steve had 11 commitments originally for the market at Gedney Farm last year and will provide a list. We must identify a location for rainy days, meet with the Village Association and confirm the day of the week and time, anticipating that the market should last at most 2 hours or even 90 minutes. Friday late afternoon and Saturday morning are the days under consideration; a decision will be made in February. Robert Olsen will attend the meeting about doubling SNAP coupons at the market, though a volunteer will be needed to administer the program. Tom and Jan will try to meet with Louise Yohalem for the Village Association.

Being that there was no further business to be brought before the Commission, a motion was made, seconded and so voted by all members to adjourn the meeting at 5:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Johnson
Chair