



**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
TOWN OF NEW MARLBOROUGH
OFFICE OF THE AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION
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**Minutes of Agricultural Commission Meeting
Monday, February 13, 2017
5 p.m.**

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

Also Present: Codey Mead

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 January 10, 2017.

Massachusetts Association of Agricultural Commissions ("MAAC")

Eli Cook led a discussion about how to categorize NMAC's principal interest on the MAAC application. Our main interest now is to create a new successful farmers' market. Eli will send the paperwork.

Neighboring Ag Commissions

Eli presented mission statements from AgComs in Northfield, Shelburne and Copake. We will use these when considering our own statement.

Farmers' Market Planning

Liason with Village Association. Tom and Jan met with Louise Yohalem for the Village Association ("VA"), which supports the idea of holding a market on the green either on Friday afternoons or Saturday mornings. The VA's art gallery operates June through the first weekend in October each Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 11 - 4. Subject to the need to block off entrance to the gallery space, the market can use the rest rooms in the Meeting House and can probably hold the market on rainy days inside that building, subject to final approval of logistics by the VA. Louise emphasized the importance of publicizing the new market through quality posters, flyers and signs. A table at the market might be shared by the VA, Land Trust and Historical Society.

Timing of Market. We discussed in depth how to identify the best time to hold the market; i.e., what time period would attract the most shoppers. We agreed to set the time of the market as 10-12 on Saturdays, from May 13 through October.

Steps to be Taken Before Next Meeting (March 6).

- 1. Develop list of vendors for market. Responsibility: all. In particular, Tom will contact Steve Cunningham and Liz Goodman as well as the vendors attending the Sheffield Market on Fridays and the Monterey Market on Tuesdays. Jan will contact Freddy Friedman, Richard Bourdon and Susan Sellew.**
- 2. Seek artist to design poster. Tom will contact Ann Getsinger.**
- 3. Check in with Selectmen. Jan will draft a note to them and circulate.**
- 4. Begin publicity. Eli will contact Barbara Lowman for the 5 Village News.**
- 5. Funding. Eli previously reported that MAAC has given grants in the past but currently does not have funding. Jan will speak with Berkshire Taconic.**

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