

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION MEETING
Town Hall Meeting Room, 334 Main St., Great Barrington, MA 01230
MINUTES: Tuesday, August 21, 2018, 3:30 PM

1. Call to Order: 3:37pm

Members Attending: Krysia Kurzyca, Michael Maguire, Hilda Banks Shapiro, Vivian Orlowski
Other Attendees: Nancy Cooley (prospective Ag Comm member), Devan Arnold (Volunteer Advisor to Ag Comm), Ed Abrahams (Selectboard)

2. Review and Approval of Minutes

Approval Moved by: Hilda Banks Shapiro, Seconded by: Michael Maguire, Vote: 4 - 0

3. Old Business

Agricultural Commission Membership: Update/Discussion

MOTION: Letter to Selectboard in support of Nancy Cooley's application as a new member

Moved by: Michael Maguire, Seconded by: Hilda Banks Shapiro, Vote: 4 - 0

4. New Business

1. Follow up on [Great Barrington Pollinator Action Plan](#)

Aug. 27 Selectboard Meeting: Vivian and Devan will report to the Selectboard

Regional Impact: Vivian participated in Pollinator Policy panel discussion at August 2018 NOFA Summer Conference at Hampshire College. Friends of the Earth U.S. sharing link to GB Pollinator Action Plan with 200 municipalities throughout the country

Town Leadership and Community Initiatives:

Devan Arnold volunteered to be in touch with DPW Superintendent Sean Van Deusen

Nancy Cooley volunteered to serve as liaison with Amanda DeGiorgis, Director, GB Libraries

Educational Opportunities: Update/Discussion

- ♦ BHRSD New Career, Vocational, Technical Education (CVTE) program planning

MOTION: Vivian will send a letter to BHRSD to recommend including agroecology, agroforestry, healthy food, land/forest assets, pollinator-friendly practices in Vocational Education. Also include in academic/building planning for MMRHS Next Steps.

Moved by: Michael Maguire, Seconded by: Hilda Banks Shapiro, Vote: 4 - 0

- ♦ BCC and Greenagers new program: Krysia will inquire and report to our next meeting
- ♦ Bard College at Simon's Rock: Nancy will inquire and report to our next meeting
- ♦ GB Rudolf Steiner School: Krysia and Hilda will inquire and report to our next meeting
- ♦ Berkshire Co-op Market: Michael will inquire and report to our next meeting
- ♦ GB Tree Commission: Hilda will suggest future Arbor Day event on "Trees & Bees"

Media Coverage

- ♦ WSBS "Let's Talk" Sept. 24 (Group interview: Vivian, Sean VanDeusen, Christine Ward)
- ♦ Already on Great Barrington town website, Future coverage: TheHillGB Google Group, Eileen Mooney's *Newsletter*, *Berkshire Eagle*, *Berkshire Edge*, *Berkshire Record*

MOTION: The Agricultural Commission will support and help publicize September 30th *Guided Plant Walk in the McAllister Wildlife Refuge*, offered free to the public by Devan Arnold.

Moved by: Vivian Orlowski, Seconded by: Krysia Kurzyca, Vote: 4 - 0

2. Legislative Update on *An Act to Protect Massachusetts Pollinators*

An Act to Protect Massachusetts Pollinators (H.4041) - had 135 co-sponsors in the state legislature, but did not reach the floor for a vote in the regular legislative session that ended July 31. H.4041 was unanimously passed by the Joint Committee on Natural Resources, Environment and Agriculture (ENRA), chaired by our State Representative Smitty Pignatelli.

The Agricultural Commission will convey our appreciation to Smitty for his leadership on *An Act to Protect Massachusetts Pollinators* and request his continued support in future legislative sessions. Vivian and Hilda volunteered to communicate with Smitty. Vivian will also communicate with the office of House Speaker DeLeo to encourage moving this legislation to the floor for a vote.

5. Next Meeting Date: Tentatively for week of October 22

6. Citizen Speak Time: no one requested time

7. Adjournment: 4:40pm

Moved by: Michael Maguire, Seconded by: Krysia Kurzyca, Vote: 4 - 0