

Harvard Agricultural Advisory Commission (HAAC) Town of Harvard, MA

Minutes of Meeting October 27, 2021 Approved December 15, 2021

Members Present: Kerri Green - chair, Rob Traver, Matt Varrell, Christiane Turnheim

7:06pm Green called the meeting to order.

Private Wells 145-22

Harvard Board of Health is making the private wells regulation less onerous on Agriculture and is required by MGL to seek input from Ag. Comm. Green shared the document.

Varrell suggested that a “habitable structure” be defined and using different language than “water unsafe” either not potable or for human consumption. Members agreed with suggestions.

Varrell made a motion to support the revisions to the Private Well Regulation relating to agriculture with two suggestions discussed - habitable structure definition and use “water not potable” or “not for human consumption” instead of “water unsafe”. Traver seconded. As a point of clarification Traver asked if all areas of the regulation pertaining to ag. were reviewed. Green confirmed. All were in favor.

FY23 Budget Submission

Green just learned that the FY22 budget request to allow new Right to Farm signs was approved.

In looking at the FY22 submission there might not be a need to reprint the HG brochure during FY22. Traver asked what is the tipping point to push us to do a reprint? Discussion about what those triggers might be. Traver feels a stock of brochures shouldn't be the only factor. A change or two in listings can happen in real time on the HG website. Turnheim reminds members to also be aware that there is a consideration to lower the acreage for what constitutes a farm. Members agreed that consideration should be on an annual basis especially when preparing for the upcoming budget season - September/October. And a second would be just before the higher traffic season - March/April. Varrell also pointed out that checking in annually or just before a known re-print to touch base with already listed farms & producers to see if they would like to make any changes to their bio description. Formulate outreach (phone/in person or email) in February with a deadline for the end of March to print in April. Bios can always be changed on the website at any point.

Other line items discussed

- Harvard Grown Website
- picking up with gatherings to include speakers, materials
- education/public engagement
- implementation of ACAP priorities - dependent on the Ag. Staffing Study report and possibly working with a WPI student

Green will compile ideas discussed and put a submission together to be reviewed/approved at the November meeting.

Chair Updates

Varrell is officially a voting member and you need to go into town hall to be sworn in.

DLTA Grant Ag. Staffing Study - Ag. Staffing Study Presentation by MRPC will be December 15, 2021 at 7pm.

Approve Invoice

- \$21.03 to Amazon for brochure holder

Traver made a motion to approve the invoice of \$21.03 for reimbursement to Kerri Green. Turnheim seconded. All were in favor.

Next Meeting

November meeting date was discussed and determined to be moved up to November 17th at 7pm.

Traver made a motion to adjourn. Turnheim seconded. All were in favor. Meeting was adjourned 8:29pm.

Submitted by: Kerri Green