

Harvard Agricultural Advisory Commission (HAAC)

Town of Harvard, MA

Minutes of Meeting October 28, 2020

Approved February 24, 2021

Present: Kerri Green (chair), Robert Traver, Rob Duzan, Christiane Turnheim, and Frank Carlson

Green called meeting to order at 7:09pm via Zoom.

Discussed budget request submission for FY22. Green explained boards and committees are encouraged to produce budgets that are level service funded as well as one that cuts expenses. Commission discussed including costs for Squarespace hosting of harvardgrown.org/com, printing of the Harvard Grown brochure, and Harvard Grown signage. Turnheim suggested using the balance of our FY21 budget to do a printing run. Quotes were still being gathered for printing, Varrell will reach out to Tim Kilhart to ask about signs. In trying to keep with our approved FY21 budget of \$1000 we would try to keep within that.

Minutes Approval

- Traver motioned to approve the minutes of June 17, 2020, Duzan seconded, all were in favor.
- Traver motioned to approve the minutes of August 6, 2020, Turnheim seconded, all were in favor.

Apple Country Project

Turnheim shared with the commission about a new grant opportunity with the Apple County Project - it's a grant project in combination with Harvard, Bolton and Devens. The focus is on farmlands, forests, wetlands and soils. Chris Ryan is seeking representatives as agricultural stakeholders for November 4, 2020 1-3pm. Traver offered to attend with Turnheim. There will be an additional core group for forests & wetlands and would like a rep from Ag.. Members were hesitant due to timing of the meetings falling at not ideal times. Varrell was interested due to his professional background but his schedule is full till the end of the year. Turnheim said she would pass along zoom log in in the event anyone became available.

General discussion about the Agricultural Climate Action Plan. Consensus was that at face value it was put together well, but Carlson admitted he has a really hard time jumping on board with these types of projects, but understands the need to support it. Turnheim continued to point out that we again have a report for Harvard that doesn't really have information/ideas specifically for Harvard. Green agreed that the report is missing all the Harvard focused info and ideas. Traver pointed out there is good ideas within, we just need to pull out which ones we want to focus on as a commission over the next year. Varrell said the ideas themselves are important and that we should piece it out as to who should be shepherding what. Commission agreed to dedicate our next meeting to run through the report and breaking down action items into a prioritized list, timeline, etc. Traver offered to extract the action items to allow members to more easily access the recommendations/implementation ideas.

Commission discussed moving up November's meeting to the 18th due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

Duzan hasn't been able to attend Open Space meetings as the Ag. rep due to their holding of meetings first thing in the morning. He emailed the chair to excuse himself because the timing doesn't work, but no one has acknowledged it. Green mentioned that she had listened to one of the recent meetings that the Harvard Conservation Trust has been gifted the 18 acre parcel (the corn field) in the C-district from the Stone family under the condition that it remain in agricultural use as a priority.

Green mentioned MDAR has stated holding their Agritourism Study Commission meetings to determine the best way to define agritourism and legislation relating to in MA. She mentioned that the meetings are held via zoom and info is posted on MDAR events page.

Traver motioned to adjourn. Duzan seconded. All were in favor.

Meeting adjourned 8:48pm

Minutes Submitted: Kerri Green