

Harvard Agricultural Advisory Commission (HAAC)

Town of Harvard, MA

Minutes of Meeting February 24, 2021

Approved September 29, 2021

Present: Kerri Green - chair, Rob Traver, Christiane Turnheim, Frank Carlson

Green called meeting to order at 7:06pm

Approval of minutes

Carlson made a motion to approve the minutes of October 26, 2020 & November 18, 2020.
Traver Seconded. All voted in favor.

FY20 Annual Report Submission

Green sent out a draft submission on behalf of Ag. Comm. The submission would also include the Harvard Grown logo. Carlson made a motion to approve the submission. Turnheim seconded. All were in favor.

Green also mentioned that Julie Doucet is looking for photographs of town happenings and would welcome more photos if anyone had any.

Volunteer Reappointments

Intent for re appointment is needed to be submitted to Julie Doucet by March 15, 2021. Carlson, Varrell, Duzan, McGovern & Green are up for reappointment. Carlson submitted his intent to continue for reappointment. Green also committed to continue, but would happily let another member take over as chair, or possibly add a vice-chair position.

ACAP Member Rankings

Each member went through the Agricultural Climate Action Plan Priorities and ranked them as to which priorities each individual.

Expression of Interest for MVP Action Grant

Turnheim reported that the state is opening up a EOI for MVP Action Grant. Which could help with completing the ACAP priorities. Turnheim talked with Chris Ryan about the idea of applying for funds to see if we could work with a Project Manager to help Ag. Comm. with executing the Priorities. Many of the action items once executed would be considered complete, so a hired town staff position wouldn't make sense but a Project Manager would.

Members were in support of submitting the EOI that would be due February 26, 2021. Carlson made a motion to authorize Green & Turnheim to submit an EOI on behalf of Ag. Comm. Traver Seconded. All in favor.

Members returned to discussing ACAP priorities. Mapping of land not currently in agricultural production. Land that has been protected in conservation that is not being maintained after protection. Carlson and Green both referenced the Hermann Orchard as a prime example. Carlson also pointed out how Pepperell has logged their town forests resulting in revenue to the town. Traver used this as a lead in to report that the Land Steward Commission was approached by Chris Ryan about a “One Stop for Growth” grant that could include components for conservation management. This grant could provide a large amount of money for conservation management.

Harvard Grown

Turnheim asked if the Harvard Grown logo could be sent to her so she could add it to her website. Traver asked who would be qualified to use the logo and members discussed/agreed producers, growers, 61A chapter landowners.

Members in addition to ranking the ACAP priorities content suggestions to publish to the Harvard Grown. Commission ran through as a group some of the ideas within a working document.

Items for Next Agenda

1. Review of Draft Reformatting of Harvard Grown Brochure
2. Content Schedule for Harvard Grown
3. Revist ACAP Priorities and determine top 5 and a tentative plan for those

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

Adjourn 8:49pm

Submitted by K. Green