

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

Minutes of Meeting October 17, 2018

Approved: November 6, 2018

Present: Kerri Green (chair), Rob Traver, Nicky Schmidt (attended until 8:05 p.m.), Laura McGovern, John Reitman.

Chairperson Kerri Green called meeting to order at 7:15.

Minutes: Minutes of 19SEP2018 meeting were read and approved.

Next Meeting: The next meeting was scheduled for 14NOV2018 (Note: this was later changed to 06NOV2018 in order to accommodate meeting with Harvard's new Community & Economic Development director, Chris Ryan).

New Members: Laura McGovern and John Reitman were introduced by Kerri Green as new members appointed by the town's Select Board the previous evening. There are currently seven members, and two alternates should now be named. Peter Basile and John Reitman have volunteered to be alternates.

MVP (Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness) Program: Kerri Green reported that no specific timeline for HAAC participation has yet been set, but anticipates that we will input at some point. She updated the HAAC on the background of the program. There are currently two workshops being planned by the MVP Program coordinating consulting firm, Harriman & Associates. Version 1 of the Agricultural Survey drafted by Harriman & Associates was clearly directed at Commercial Enterprises. If this is their goal, aside from a few minor changes in edit suggestions, it appears acceptable. All HAAC members present agreed that the survey could be a positive driving force in helping to assess and even shape the community's perspective on agriculture in Harvard if it was more inclusive to those that don't meet "Commercial Enterprise" definitions. Members agreed that there is a need for education on what constitutes a farm and how the community can rally in support of agriculture in Harvard.

Kerri is a participating member of a MVP planning sub-committee and intends to meet with the sub-committee next week to continue representing the ag community as a stakeholder.

Erosion Control Bylaw: Discussion of how an erosion control bylaw could negatively affect small-scale farmers that are not under the regulatory umbrella of Chapter 61 or recognized by the town as a farm.*

It was agreed that there should be some discussion with town leadership and perhaps the community as a whole concerning the changing face of agriculture, and how modern farmers are doing more with less acreage.

Meeting with Chris Ryan: All HAAC members present agreed that it would be productive to meet as a group with Chris Ryan, Harvard's new director of Community & Economic Development. Kerri intends to set up a meeting in the near future.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: John Reitman

DOCUMENTS & REFERENCES

- Harvard's MVP Application

- **MGL Ch128 Sec.1A**
(<https://malegislature.gov/Laws/GeneralLaws/PartI/TitleXIX/Chapter128/Section1A>) has defines a "farm" as: Section 1A. "Farming" or "agriculture" shall include farming in all of its branches and the cultivation and tillage of the soil, dairying, the production, cultivation, growing and harvesting of any agricultural, aquacultural, floricultural or horticultural commodities, the growing and harvesting of forest products upon forest land, the raising of livestock including horses, the keeping of horses as a commercial enterprise, the keeping and raising of poultry, swine, cattle and other domesticated animals used for food purposes, bees, fur-bearing animals, and any forestry or lumbering operations, performed by a farmer, who is hereby defined as one engaged in agriculture or farming as herein defined, or on a farm as an incident to or in conjunction with such farming operations, including preparations for market, delivery to storage or to market or to carriers for transportation to market.