

Harvard Agricultural Advisory Commission (HAAC)

Town of Harvard, MA

Minutes of Meeting June 7, 2022
Approved October 27, 2022

Present: Kerri Green - Chair, Matt Varrel, Christiane Turnheim, Rob Traver (arrived late)

Green called meeting to order 7:12pm

HCIC Agricultural Climate Action Plan

Turnheim reported that other Town stakeholder groups were supposed to provide feedback on the drafted Ag action items and that the commission drafted. Turnheim reported that she has reached out and has not received any communication back from the various groups or Jefferson Burson who is spearheading the HCIC Climate Action Plan. Green suggested the next step would be reaching out to Liz Allard asking for her to help communicate with the prospective groups that she is staff liaison for to see if she can help facilitate feedback/communication on the matter. Green also suggested mentioning that next Ag Comm meeting would be June 29, 2022 and hopefully she can help get communication/feedback in time for that date.

Finalize Chapter 61A Letter & Google Form

Green reported that she took a previous questionnaire/survey that was part of the Ag Gathering back in November 2019 and uploaded questions into a Google Form. Members reviewed questions, added a few new ones.

Varrell made a motion to approve the questionnaire to be included in the 61A outreach letter. Turnheim seconded. All were in favor.

Green will send the Google Questionnaire hyperlink to Turnheim who will add it to the letter and then Turnheim will send the letter to Traver to give the letter a proofread then the Commission will give the letter a final approval at the next meeting.

Harvard Grown Submissions for Posting

Green reminded members to send harvardgrown.org post submissions.

New Right to Farm & Directional Signs

Green attended the Select Board meeting and the SB approved the 18" round signs at entry points with the 18x6 "A Right to Farm Community" below. Additionally they also approved the installation of the interior signs as discussed along with the Farm opt in directional signage. Next

steps would be for the Commission to approve the 10 town line entry points along with 6 interior signs. SB asked that coordination with DPW and Police Chief as to locations along the rights of way to ensure proper placement.

Green also pointed out that removing the harvardgrown.org to ensure the Commission isn't tied to the website should it not pan out to keep the website going. This spurred Traver to point out the grammar of the sign presenting Harvard Grown as the right to farm community and felt the round sign should say town of Harvard in the place where the harvardgrown.org - Turnheim understands Traver's point, Varrell felt the placement of the majority of signs near the entry points of town would serve the connection that Harvard is a right to farm community and not Harvard Grown, to which Green also agreed.

Varrell motioned to order 18 sets - including 18" round logo signs and 16 18x6 "a right to farm community" as presented minus harvardgrown.org. Turnheim seconded.

Varrell - aye, Turnheim - aye, Green - aye, Traver - no

Review/Approve Minutes

Traver made a motion to approve the minutes of January 18, 2022. Varrell seconded. All were in favor.

Member & Chair Updates

Green expressed the wish to have a volunteer or rotating volunteers to help with minutes moving forward as she has been doing them exclusively since the start of the pandemic. Varrell asked if we really needed written minutes now that all meetings are held and recorded on zoom. Turnheim thought it would be great if the meetings had transcripts that you could just copy and paste. Green said she has not been told that we are exempt from minutes because of recordings.

HCIC - nothing other than what was discussed earlier in the meeting.

Green also reminded members to take the Open Space & Recreation Plan Survey, and that she also had forwarded a copy of the flyer about the survey so

OSC - Carlson was not present to provide any updates.

Land Stewardship - Traver said nothing really significant to report.. But mentioned the Haskell Land in Still River, that Traver has been leasing from the town was going to be replanted with a cover crop until the fall and then replanted with native grasses to return the field to pasture land/meadow to attract pollinators. Con Comm is overseeing the hiring/contracting and funding the project.

Traver asked if we are seeking any additional members - Green said the Commission has room for the addition of 3 alternates. Varrell suggested start kicking around another Gathering like we hosted in Nov. 2019 as this would be a great opportunity to recruit members.

Discussion Items for June 29, 2022 Meeting

- Invoice for the sign order
- Final approval of the 61A letter
- HCIC Climate Action Plan
- Potential Fall Gathering

Adjourn

Varrell made a motion to adjourn. Traver seconded. All were in favor. Meeting was adjourned 8:46pm.

Submitted by: K. Green