

# Harvard Agricultural Advisory Commission (HAAC)

## Town of Harvard, MA

### Minutes of Meeting 24 April 2019 Approved June 26, 2019

**Present:** Kerri Green (chair), Laura McGovern, Nicky Schmidt, John Reitman(alternate).

Chairperson Kerri Green called meeting to order at 7:13 p.m.

**Minutes:** Minutes of 27MAR2019 meeting were approved.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting was scheduled for May 29, 2019.

#### **Chair Update:**

**Member Terms expiring in June, 2019:** Green announced that a number of HAAC members' commissions were expiring in June, 2019. John Reitman intends to renew for another year as an alternate. Rob Traver's full term is expiring, and it's unknown whether Peter Basile intends to renew for another year as an alternate.

#### **MVP (Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness) Program**

(<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/mvp-program-information>): Green reported the following:

- The first community resilience building meeting was held on April 11, with reportedly ten local community member attendees in addition to the meeting principals. No HAAC members attended, as the 4/11 meeting was not ag-specific. Green intends to attend the upcoming 4/25 meeting.
- at some point near the end of May or early June 2019 all components of the MVP fact-finding process will be presented for community comment.
- The MVP report is due 6/30/2019.
- It's unknown at this time how the ag community will be affected by the MVP due to no existing comparative examples (new process).
- Only twenty respondents have participated in the Harvard community survey thus far.

**Town Meeting is May 4:** Green reminded the group that the Town Meeting was coming up shortly. A discussion ensued regarding whether the HAAC should speak at Town Meeting on the erosion control bylaw. No decision was made, although Schmidt and Reitman are to work together to draft a potential opinion piece for the Harvard Press.

**GWPOD and Erosion Control Bylaw updates:** Green updated attending members on edits to the bylaws. These edits include for the erosion control bylaw an upgraded threshold of 1 acre and minor permit issuance by the land use conservation agent. Reitman offered to speak at the May 4 Town Meeting if members felt it would be useful in ultimately achieving a more ag-friendly bylaw. Members agreed that the HAAC remains concerned about a bylaw being passed that the Town's citizens worked against in 2016 and that, even with the most recent edits, effectively restricts growth within Harvard's ag-related community.

**Ag Business Forum:** Green led a discussion on conducting a ag-business forum on May 29 or shortly thereafter that is intended to gather farm and ag-business owners together in order to gauge their needs and how the HAAC can best represent their ag-related interests.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: John Reitman