East Bridgewater Agricultural Commission
Minutes of Meeting
February 12, 2020

Present: Caryl Guarino - Chair
         Dan Batchelder – Vice Chair
         Lynn Lundberg – Secretary / Treasurer
         Sharon Dunn
         Peter Santilli
         Cam Woodard

Absent:  Katie Cavanagh

A regular meeting of the East Bridgewater Agricultural Commission was held at the East Bridgewater Town Hall 2nd floor Conservation Commission Conference room. The meeting was called to order by Caryl Guarino CH at approximately 7:00 pm

Agricultural Commission Minutes
A motion was made, second to accept the minutes of the Agricultural Commission meeting held on January 8, 2020. Unanimously approved

Treasurers Report
A motion was made, second to accept the Treasurer’s report as presented. Unanimously approved.

Facebook
No Update
Agricultural Commission Directory

No update

Backyard Poultry Regulations

Commission members reviewed numerous city and town poultry regulations. It became apparent that there was too much information to be covered at one meeting. It was unanimously agreed to continue discussions next month.

New Business

1. Farm to School Program – Lynn to get information for next month’s meeting.

2. MAAC Annual Meeting – motion made and second for Lynn to sign up and pay for 5 commission members to attend. Unanimously approved

3. Plymouth County Farm Bureau Breakfast Meeting – motion made and second for Lynn to sign up 2 commission members to attend. Unanimously approved.

Mail

None

It was unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

Lynn Lundberg
Secretary
8:30 Check In & Walk in Registration (save money - register by Feb 14)

9:15 Welcome

9:30 - 11:15 Session 1. Glyphosate Use in Agriculture & Potential Alternatives

Overview of the most common uses of glyphosate in MA agriculture, potential alternatives and regulatory updates. The regulatory review presentation will provide an overview of the registration history and use of glyphosate, environmental fate and toxicity, ecological and human health risk assessments, and recent regulatory reviews and updates. Speakers Randy Prostak of UMASS and Hotze Wijngaard, MDAR Chemist

Speaker Randy Prostak joined UMass in 1994 and has been a UMass Extension Specialist since 2000 where he specializes in weed management. He is a member of the UMass Extension Landscape, Nursery and Urban Forestry Team and is an active contributor to the Crop, Dairy, Livestock, Equine, Turf and Pesticide Education Extension Programs. He currently serves on the Massachusetts Invasive Plant Advisory Group. Randy is an active member of the Weed Science Society of America and has served as president of the Northeastern Weed Science Society. In February 2013, Randy received the Northeastern Weed Science Society’s Outstanding Educator Award. The 2020 growing season will mark Randy’s 32nd year working in weed science. 50 Minutes for each speaker to enable (2 Pesticide Credits)

11:30 - 12:15 Session 2. "REAL" Local Produce, a Conversation on Produce Traceability

Updates from MDAR's Mike Botelho on Produce Safety, Commonwealth Quality Program, Food Safety Modernization and a discussion with MAAC Vice President Mike Pineo on MAAC's new "REAL." Farmer’s Market, CSA and Farm Stands Initiative.

During the Annual Meeting Business session at Lunch, MAAC Vice President Mike Pineo will be asking for MAAC Voting Ag Com members to join the MAAC Farm Stand Committee that was started by Mike Pineo and the MAAC County Directors of Bristol Val Souza and of Norfolk Ed Lawton. The Committee will be expanding to come up with a plan to acknowledge farmers that go above and beyond to ensure traceability, transparency in sourcing and compliance, in MAAC's new "REAL" promotional program.
12:15 - 1:30 Lunch & Annual Meeting

Special guests MDAR’s Assistant Commissioner Ashley Sears Randle who is also a dairy farmer and MAAC’s First President Dick Werd from Carver who is also a cranberry grower, an Ag Com member and all around community leader.

1:30 - 2:45 Session 3. Hemp Updates, Regulations and Legislation

This session will have the latest information on the growing and processing of hemp in Massachusetts, plus an overview of what is happening with hemp in nearby states, MA regulations and legislation. Heritage Hemp has been contracting with MA growers and has great information for those considering growing it.

MDAR’s Jessica Burgess, Dan Smith of Vicente Sedorberg LLC and Josh Turner of Heritage Hemp CBD.

3:00 - 4:00 Session 4. Working with Municipalities

MAAC has been advocating for a better working relationship with municipalities. This session will discuss methods to work with local governments, M.G.L. Chapter 40 Section 8L and review pending legislation. Frank Diluna of Smolak and Vaughn and Council to Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation.

Email your questions for any of the sessions to massacoms.maac@gmail.com and we will forward them to our speakers in advance of the meeting.

Payment Options for the Meeting

The Registration link goes directly to credit card option, but there are additional methods to register outlined below.

If you wish to pay by check, please email massacoms.maac@gmail.com and list out the name(s), email(s) and the Ag Com that they are representing (if they are on an Ag Com) and include a phone number, so that we can count you for meals and seating. If the email is sent in by February 14th (MAAC will confirm) the rate is $35 per person.

If your municipality is paying your tickets by check and we have the email by February 14th (MAAC will confirm), then you can bring the check to the meeting and MAAC will accept the lower rate of $35.

Checks should be payable to the Massachusetts Association of Agricultural Commissions, Inc. and mailed, send them to the MAAC Treasurer Randy Johnson, 120 Middleton Rd., Boxford, MA 01921. Post marked no later than February 14th for the early registration rate at $35 per person and after that the rate is $40 per person.
Plymouth County Farm Bureau Legislative Breakfast

Date: Friday, March 13, 2020
Time: 7:00 doors open, 7:30 Breakfast & Meeting
Location: Lakeside Villas (formerly Monponset Inn)
550 Monponsett St. Halifax

Test Your Knowledge of Agriculture

Directions: Match each Ag statistic with its correct answer

1. 758 farms
   a. Plymouth County Massachusetts

2. 60,036 acres of land in farms
   b. Plymouth County Massachusetts

3. $94,901 avg. market value of production per farm
   c. Plymouth County Massachusetts

4. $71,935 in market value of Ag. products sold
   d. Plymouth County Massachusetts

Answer Key: It doesn’t matter how you slice it, Plymouth County plays a valuable role in agriculture in MA by its contribution to open space, employment, and the local economy.

Please join the Plymouth County Farm Bureau members for our Annual Meeting and meet the folks behind the figures. Meet with farmers, local Ag Commission members, agribusiness people, and other industry supporters to discuss Ag related issues. Farm Bureau is a grass roots organization with over 6 million members nationwide. Plymouth County membership includes over 600 households and farm businesses.

RSVP- Please leave a message for Lisa Blair at (508) 866-9150 or e-mail Plymouth_County_Farm_Bureau@yahoo.com to confirm your reservation by March 6, 2020

Thank you for your past support of Farm Bureau sponsored legislation and for your continued support in keeping Massachusetts agriculture viable.

Sincerely,

Jim Hayward
President, Plymouth County Farm Bureau