

TOWN OF NORTHFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Agricultural Commission Minutes

November 14, 2017

Meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. The following members were present: Stacy Bond, Dave Kalinoski, Bob Duby, Bill Llewelyn, Al Stone and Jerry Wagener.

- Steve and Joan Stoia spoke on behalf of NATABA. (Acronym for Northfield Area Tourism & Business Association.) They presented background information on how the NATABA was established and what their goals are for the future. They would like to collaborate with the Agricultural Commission for an event in town that would be based on agriculture in this area. Town Manager, Willie Morales, would like to see the different groups in Northfield working with one another. Pool our resources. There is a need to market agriculture. Just a few of the ideas they suggested: Farm Day, Tour of Barns, and a parade. If we all worked together, we could have an event in town that would put us on the map. They opened the door for the Ag Commission to sponsor an event and they would be more than willing to help out. They have helped with many other programs in town. The Historical Commission would be happy to coordinate with us as well.
- Minutes were read and accepted.
- Members discussed ideas for an event in town sponsored by the Agricultural Commission. Do we have enough products made in Northfield that would draw a crowd? Some products mentioned were: maple syrup, honey, hops, wheat products, turf, corn for multiple uses, hay, potatoes, sheep products, mums, and lumber. A parade of tractors, floats, chicken BBQ, documentary? Lots of ideas were thrown around. The Board was very enthusiastic about having a video made. The video would depict the different products and how they are harvested and/or processed. Members will gather more ideas and resources and bring to the next meeting. A parade would be a great idea but more long term planning would be needed.
- *Right to Farm* signs have been checked and are in good standing as of this date.
- Stacy mentioned that the information on the town website for the Agricultural Commission needs to be updated.
- Discussion on updating the farm directory. Jerry Wagener will follow-up on Chapter 61 information and have more info available at the January meeting. We need a simpler way to integrate information on the map. We also need comprehensive updating of farms.
- Next meeting will be January 9, 2018. Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

*Bill Llewelyn, Bob Duby, J. L. Wagener
William J. Stone, Stacy E. Bond*