

Ipswich Agricultural Commission

Minutes of the Meeting of January 5, 2022

Members and Associates participating: Jay Stanbury, Royce Knowlton, Charlotte Kahn

Members not present: Eric Galicki, Shendel Bakal, Norm Swanson,

Non-members present: Joe Garrity, Beth O'Connor

Meeting Location: Virtual via Zoom.

Minutes: The Commission voted to approve the draft minutes from the meeting of December 8, 2021.

Citizens' queries and comment:

- The Commission welcomed Joe Garrity of Beverly, who introduced himself and informed the Commission that he is operating a small produce farm on rented land on Fellows Road.

Agenda Items

- The Commission continued discussion regarding an amendment to the Zoning Bylaw to clarify the applicability of Footnote 22. It was decided to schedule a meeting with staff at the Planning office to determine the best way to move forward. It was noted that any such amendment would not be ready for publication in the town warrant before Fall of 2022.
- The Commission discussed ways to increase public awareness of agriculture in Ipswich, including placement of a booth at various public events such as craft fairs. The Commission discussed spending some of its annual budget on one or two tents, and for preparation of handouts and other publicity material. The Commission also discussed ways to link local farms to these events in order to increase their visibility.
- The Commission continued discussion of an updated list of active farms in Ipswich. Royce Knowlton has a list of farms currently under the MGL 61A program. It was noted that the Commission had previously prepared a list of farms and potential farm sites. This information would be included in the updated listing.

Other Business

- There was a short discussion of "threatened" farms and other open spaces in Ipswich, including the property on Waldingfield Road.
- The Commission discussed the use of social media as a way of promoting farms, Joe Garrity noted that he has found Instagram more effective than Facebook. There was no consensus on who would be responsible for maintaining these sites.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:12 pm.

Respectfully Submitted: Jay Stanbury, Chair, Town of Ipswich Agricultural Commission