

Ipswich Agricultural Commission

Minutes of the Meeting of February 2, 2022

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

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

Non-members present: Anne Hezzey, Beth O'Connor

Meeting Location: Virtual via Zoom.

Minutes: The Commission voted to approve the draft minutes from the meeting of January 5, 2022.

Citizens' queries and comment:

- The Commission welcomed Anne Hezzey. Anne Hezzey noted that she's like to write a series of articles about agriculture in Ipswich for submission to The LocalNews, and is seeking someone to work with her. She would prefer a high school student.
- Anne also suggested looking into opportunities for increasing the generation of solar electricity. This could include using barn roofs and underutilized ground-based sites for solar panels. The Commission discussed various considerations such as regulatory issues and coordination with the Town's Electric Department. The Commission voted to schedule a meeting with the Electric Light Department to investigate this idea in more detail.

Agenda Items

- The Commission decided to table a proposal for submitting an amendment to Footnote 22 of the town's Zoning Bylaw, concerning the holding of events on agricultural properties. The reason is that there does not seem to be a compelling need for such an amendment at this time.
- The Commission discussed the possibility of having a booth at various town events (such as Olde Ipswich Days) for the purpose of increasing public awareness of agriculture in Ipswich. After discussion, it was decided not to pursue this idea because of logistical difficulties, including the difficulty of finding volunteers to staff the booth.
- The Commission continued discussion of an updated list of active farms in Ipswich. It was noted that the Commission had developed a database of farms and potential farm properties at some time in the past. This information will be reviewed for currency and included in the updated listing.

Other Business

- The Commission discussed other means of promoting agriculture. Charlotte Kahn suggested that the Commission could run a series of ads in The LocalNews that would highlight farms in

Ipswich and locally-grown produce in season. This might require the use of Commission funds both for the preparation of the ads and for publication.

- It was noted that members whose terms end at the end of the Town's fiscal year (June 30) must file an application with the Town Manager's office or their membership will expire.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:25 pm.

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