

March 6, 2014 7 pm  
Next Meeting: March 20 7pm

Attendees:

Marlow Duffy  
Steve Huberman  
Leslie Thomas  
Steve Carlin  
Jack Valentine  
Peter Mastromarino  
Jon LaFlamme  
Andrew Rodgers  
Judy Asarkof

Not Attending:

John Lee  
Alex Rollins  
Frank Proctor  
Kay Fairweather

### **Introductions around the table**

### **Reminder of and discussion about the swearing-in requirement and ethics test.**

Peter Mastromarino was concerned about the Conflict of Interest portion of ethics and questioned whether the law would disallow anyone who was interested in farming their own land participate in this Commission. Commission members explored this and felt there is no issue.

### **Discussion about The Mission Statement:**

Mission Statement:

- The Purpose of the Commission will be to represent the agricultural interests of the Farming community in Carlisle. Said Commission will develop a work plan to guide activities including, but not limited, to the following: encouraging the continued pursuit of agriculture in Carlisle; promoting agricultural-based economic opportunities in Town; mediating, advocating, educating and/or negotiating on farming issues; working for preservation of agricultural lands; and pursuing all initiatives appropriate to retaining farming in Carlisle.

Question was raised: Are we advisory? Leslie Thomas responded that... yes we are... and cited an example – the rooster conflict in town in 2013 and how the Agricultural Commission might have enabled this conflict to be resolved by mediation.

Judy Asarkof reminded the group that as we go along – if we are confused or need clarification - Cheryl Lekstrom of the Massachusetts Farm Bureau is here to help us if we need it.

**Next Question was – Let’s get an idea of what peoples think we should focus on?**

Suggestions were:

A) Website – as a communication forum.

Discussion on this topic involved: What does the town allow? Steve Huberman volunteered to figure out if we could get something on the Town Website!

If we have a website – some ideas could be: Links to important Agricultural State and Town Guidelines, Frequently Asked Questions. How to contact The Carlisle Agricultural Commission for mediation or education, Discussion of different Agricultural Practices, perhaps equipment sharing. New Entry Sustainable Project.

Jack Valentine recommended a discussion about insurance needs on individual or community farms – especially if you invite another person to farm on your farm.

B) Profiles of the farms. Andrew Rodgers showed us all a brochure that Concord put out highlighting farms in Concord. Group felt this was a great idea. Judy Asarkof volunteered to feel out how we might get list of farms and how to approach farms to see if this would be of interest. Andrew Rodgers volunteered to get an estimate on how much printing of such a brochure would cost.

C) Sponsoring activities like ag-related movie nights, etc. Speakers series. How we’d get the word out about these activities was asked – suggestions were: on website and mosquito.

Judy Asarkof asked - Do town boards get to “advertise” for free. – Mosquito representative in the room mentioned that announcements were free.

**The idea of a budget was raised – since this commission is a non-funded commission.**

How to have money if we have a project like a brochure about farms – where to go? Maybe “Friends of Ag Commission”.

Leslie mentioned reading a note from the Mass Dept of Ag Resources – Farmers are going out of business everywhere except NE – where farms are increasing!