

TOWN OF KINGSTON
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting held 03/19/08

Those present: Christine Nava, Rui Santos, Brad Colton, Phil Burnham, Barry Mathias, Bill Napolitano and Jean Landis Naumann,

Meeting called to order by Chairman Nava at 7:05 pm.

The minutes of the 2/2/7/08 meeting were approved as written.

Sarah Cogswell provided information on Southeastern Massachusetts Agricultural Partnership, headquartered in Wareham, MA. This is a non-profit in existence for 10 years whose mission is to help local growers achieve financial success. They offer 2 categories of assistance: marketing development and technical assistance. Business to Business is a program to connect growers with purchasers such as restaurants and schools. Buy Fresh Buy Local is a program to promote the purchasing of fresh local produce. There is a \$75 membership fee for certain services and materials. There is a free online farm site to list products and events. They also sponsor newspaper ads that list growers and recipes. Sarah provided the board members with promotional materials and her business card.

After Sarah left the board discussed the Annual Town Meeting warrant article on the right-to-farm bylaw. Bill will make the presentation at Town Meeting.

The board also discussed a Boston Globe article on Congressional action to change farming subsidies.

Jean will contact the Town Moderator to ask if the AgCom may present their award at the beginning of the Annual Town Meeting. Bill will prepare the award.

There was a brief discussion of the August Agricultural event. A date will be determined prior to the ATM so it can be announced at the meeting. The use of the parking lot next to the Town House will need to be discussed with the new owner.

Jean explained the most recent information on the status of aquaculture in Kingston Bay.

Barry presented some ideas for using the Kelleher property. Barry will contact Gary Langenbach to give our board members a tour of the property. We may then request a meeting with the Conservation Committee to discuss some of these ideas.

.Meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Landis Naumann