

**Harvard Agricultural Advisory Commission (HAAC)**  
**Town of Harvard, MA**

**Minutes of Meeting August 31, 2022**

**Approved April 5, 2023**

**Present:** Kerri Green - Chair, Rob Traver, Matt Varrell, Chrisitne Turnheim

**Call Meeting to Order:** 7:08pm

**Update on Chapter 61A Letter/Google Form**

Turnheim reported that she mailed out letters to 61A property owners that the Commission did not have current info for. 40 letters were sent out; with some of those going to owners of multiple parcels. Turnheim also suggested sending an email to email contacts we do have to have them participate in the questionnaire as well.

Traver made a motion for Green to tweak the current letter to align with an email delivery. Varrell seconded. All were in favor.

**Approve Invoices for Reimbursement to Kerri Green.**

Varrell made a motion to approve two invoices totaling \$269.50 for reimbursement to Kerri Green.

- Squarespace Hosting \$229.50
- Domain Registrations (harvardgrown.org & harvardgrown.com) \$40.00

Traver seconded. All were in favor.

**HCIC Climate Action Plan**

Green shared that Turnheim reported that the HCIC is in the final stages of wrapping up the final draft of the Climate Action Plan and Ag is asked for comment on the two action under Natural Resources assigned to Ag Comm on page 30 of the draft.

- Improve soil health through education and best management practices.
- Improve habitat for pollinators and beneficial insects with protection and cultivation of native plants

Turnheim felt that the second one to improve habitat for pollinators was beyond Ag Comm's scope and best suited for Con Comm as this would come down to native plants and pollinator gardens on conservation lands. Turnheim mentioned this at the last HCIC meeting and that committee said they would assign this action to someone else.

Varrell said he could see how the action item was assigned to Ag possibly due to the word “cultivation” he said it could be assigned to more than one stakeholder. Green said she could see oversight of this item being shared. It was agreed that this item was best suited under the purview of Con Comm.

Traver made a motion to report to the HCIC that Ag Comm feels that the effort to improve habitat for pollinators and beneficial insects with protection and cultivation of native plants was more under the purview of the Con Comm than Ag Comm because the vast majority of the plants being grown in Harvard are not native. Turnheim seconded. All were in favor.

There were no issues with the action item related to improving soil health.

Members also reviewed the Agricultural section of the draft and the action items assigned to Ag Comm.

### **Review/Approve Minutes**

Members reviewed the minutes of 3/2/22 and 3/30/22. A minor amendment was suggested regarding wording regarding maple tapping on the 3/30/22 minutes and added the date for the HCIC Earth Day event. Traver made a motion to approve the minutes of 3/2/22 as presented and 3/30/22 as amended. Turnheim seconded. Traver, Turnheim and Green were in favor. Varrell abstained.

### **Member & Chair Updates**

No Member or Chair updates. Members agreed the next meeting would be September 27, 2022.

### **Adjourn**

Varrell made a motion to adjourn. Traver seconded. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:35pm

**Submitted by: K. Green**