

Harvard Agricultural Advisory Commission (HAAC)

Town of Harvard, MA

Minutes of Meeting February 1, 2023
Approved October 25, 2023

Green called meeting to order 7:03pm

Members Present: Kerri Green - Chair, Frank Carlson, Matt Varrell, Christiane Turnheim

Review/Approve Minutes

Varrell made a minor edit to a sentence. Varrell made a motion to approve the minutes of June 29, 2022 as amended. Carlson seconded. All were in favor..

Review Annual Report Submission

Green shared a draft of a FY22 Annual report submission. Turnheim sent to Green some suggested edits. Members reviewed and wordsmithed edits to the draft. Varrell made a motion to approve the FY22 Annual Report as amended. Carlson seconded. All were in favor.

Update on Harvard Grown & RTF Signs

Green reported that Visi-Flash did respond with all sorts of sign post options and sizing but didn't provide any pricing information. Green has requested pricing for the option presented but unfortunately hasn't received a response. Since the ground is frozen and signs aren't going in at the moment it makes sense to punt this topic to the next meeting when hopefully information is available.

Update Proposed Protective Bylaw Amendment §125-7 Agricultural Uses

Green reported that the SB is not moving forward with the proposed amendment for the upcoming Special Town Meeting, and she hasn't heard anything as to if there are any next steps in light of that update.

Member & Chair Updates

Green reported that Rob Traver, a long time member of the Commission has since moved out of town and is no longer able to serve as a member of the Ag Commission. Green thanked him for his years of service.

Green reported that there is a State Ethics Training on Tuesday, March 14th from 6-8pm.

Turnheim reported that there is a Climate Action Plan Implementation Meeting on February 9th via zoom for all boards. Green would forward the invitation to members and follow up with a posted zoom link when it becomes available.

Turnheim also shared that the HCIC Outreach Group will be showing “The Biggest Little Farm” March 10th. Turnheim said there was a hope that someone from our Commission would be able to lead a discussion after the film regarding Regenerative Farming.

Carlson reported there is nothing to report from the Open Space Committee as there is a strong focus on playing fields/recreation currently.

Members also discussed some ideas on how we could generate more members. Turnheim mentioned it to a resident on Bolton Rd who is actively farming. Green encouraged members to mention that there are openings to anyone they think might be a good fit.

Determine date of next meeting

Next meeting would be March 1, 2023 at 7pm.

Adjourn

Carlson made a motion to adjourn. Varrell seconded. All were in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 7:56pm.

Submitted by K. Green