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

Minutes of Meeting April 28, 2021
Approved December 15, 2021

Members Present: Kerri Green - chair, Rob Traver, Matt Varrell

Others in Attendance: Jane Biering from Planning Board, Pam Lawson

7:04pm Green called meeting to order.

Minutes

minutes were not available to approve.

Protective Bylaws New & Amendments

Jane Biering from the Planning Board (PB) was in attendance to discuss/answer questions about Discuss Annual Town Meeting Bylaw Amendments Section 125-18.1 - Accessory Apartments & new section 125-57 - Senior Residential Development. Biering explained she and another member of the PB did surveys and focus groups to hear from the community and learn what would like to be seen or not seen.

She described both the new proposed bylaws/amendments. No members had any comments/questions as it related to Ag. but Traver asked if there is a problem with saying only 15% can be senior housing. Biering explained that this bylaw was modeled after many other communities in Massachusetts and she was pretty sure it was allowed, but she would get back to Green on Traver with a solid answer.

Green mentioned the Ayer Road Citizen Vision Forum taking place on April 29th in preparation of the PB ask for $300,000 at the upcoming ATM. Biering explained she is not able to answer questions because she is not part of the members spearheading this proposal. But she explained that it should be informative and that she is also hoping to learn more from it.

Ayer Road Citizen Vision Plan

Green expressed her concerns for the two prominent large active agricultural parcels (plus a 3rd that is set back from Ayer Rd.) and wanting to make sure that the pressures and impacts are taken into consideration. Varrell asked if anyone knew anything about the new garden center on Ayer Rd. and if there is any connection to agriculture within their business. He pointed out that both that property and the one nextdoor are under new ownership and have been clearly invested in with updates and renovations. Traver supports us asking the questions and pushing up against what is in mind for Ayer Rd. and appreciated Varrell pointing out the two new properties that have been re-developed within the

envelopes. He also took the opportunity to throw out there that we might want to have someone on the horticultural side of agriculture on the commission. Green reiterated her concerns lie with rezoning each parcel in the corridor and wants to ensure that everything is looked at from all directions.

Harvard Grown Brochure Additions & Removals

- Flintlock Farm - Green reached out to Steve Nigzus who was the realtor representing Flintlock Farm in Still River. The property has recently sold and he believes the new owners are not farming the property in a commercial sense. He said he would pass along Green's contact info if they are interested.
- Community Harvest Project - Green also contacted again and the gentleman she spoke with promised to have someone get in touch ASAP.
- Fruitlands - Varrell said he would reach out to his contact at Fruitlands again.
- Green reported that there is a need to pair down some words in the bio descriptions on the brochure to have everyone fit. Varrell & Traver both feel we have creative authority when it come to the brochure. Originally submitted bios will still be available on the website.

ACAP Priorities

The CRWG submitted a DLTA grant for a few projects for their board and added a request to help Ag. Comm. with staffing support to help execute the ACAP Priorities. As of now there isn't an update as to where that stands.

Harvard Grown Content

Due to only three members being present it was determined to wait on the content schedule. Some ideas were tossed around about the type of content, frequency, and potential community engagement opportunities. Traver suggested a Harvard Farm Essay Contest.

Varrell motioned to adjourn. Traver Seconded. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:28pm.

Submitted by: Kerri Green