Chair Schwalbe called the meeting to order at 6:35pm. Elianna Spitzer, Falmouth Enterprise, was present. Stan Ingram was present for Farming Falmouth.

**Agenda:**

**Newcomers Event Report:** Warren Collins reported the event will be held April 11th at the Falmouth Congregational Church at 7pm. Handouts are being created for mailing and the deadline for securing a table at the event is February 10th. At the Farmer’s Market meeting, farmers with CSAs in Falmouth and Bourne will be invited to this event along with farmers in Falmouth. The AgComm will have a table with a slide show. Approximately 200 people may attend. If a farmer has a CSA, products can be promoted at the event. Free FM tokens will be available at the event for a discount at the FM.

Motion: Matt Churchill/Heidi Walz: The AgComm will have a table at the Newcomer’s event April 11, 2019. Set up will be at 6pm with the meeting at 7pm.

Vote: Unanimous

**Minutes:** November 26, 2018

Motion: Heidi Walz/Matt Churchill: Approve the November 26, 2018 minutes with 2 amendments.

Vote: Unanimous

**Community Gardens Report per Farming Falmouth Working Group:** Stan reported the charette held at the Falmouth Public Library on Saturday, January 26th had 15-20 gardeners or future gardeners in attendance. There were 4 stations around the room: Governance, methods etc. The working group will discuss various topics at their meetings, Thursday nights. 1st topic to be discussed is governance, then design and layout, plot size. There is an outline for the sublease with Geoff Andrews. Early on Peter Johnson-Staub indicated that the Town would use their resources to write up a sublease with the main points: Fencing consensus is yes in order to signal to the public that this is a community garden area; At the Gifford Street location, the fencing facing Gifford Street will remain and the remainder of the fencing including the posts have been removed by AmeriCorps for use in the new community garden at Andrews Farm. The water issue will be worked out with the Town with possible hook up to the hydrants per Geoff Andrews. A WG member has an appointment with Steve Rafferty of the Town of Falmouth Water Department in February. Members of the FF working group will attend the Newcomers meeting. Ms. Collins reported that she just met a woman who is a master gardener and used to write all the grants for the city of Albany for community gardens and said she would help us.

**Spring Bog Maintenance and Harvest:** West Thompson bog is flooded possibly from overflow from the Augusta bog. During the cold spell people were out skating on the bog and commented how happy they were to have this bog as to skate on. Thanks to Matt for his 2nd mowing. Flax 3 remains extremely wet and maybe when it freezes, board members could go in with chainsaws to remove trees and brush.

Per Chair Schwalbe, ConCom needs to be notified when there is a date for maintenance and the board has permission for doing light bog maintenance. AgComm will need to file a Determination for Applicability and public notice for bog work maintenance that was beyond the original ConCom permission agreement such as sanding or planting for example. Bog Maintenance will be done: February 17, 2019 from 10-12pm.
**Spring Farmer Meet and Greet:** Heidi Walz reported that there will be two Meeting and Greets with fall and spring weekend dates to be determined. A contact list will be created for farmers including the 300 Committee, Bourne Farm, Peterson Farm, Duarte Farm, ConCom and individual farmers and other agricultural interested parties. Tutorials will be created and designated farms will be approached. Figuring out who will be the best spring farms vs fall farms and making contact with these farmers will need to be a priority. BuyFresh/Buy Local contact info from Rebecca can be obtained per Chair Schwalbe. A Facebook blast would hopefully provide notification to the smaller farmers. Chair Schwalbe will create FalmouthAgComm@gmail.com and members can forward contact info. Newcomers contact list from Ms. Collins will be used also.

Spring, 2019: May 18th and Heidi will draft a letter to farmers and will schedule the farmers who respond. Fall, 2019: No date yet. Waquoit Farmers Market runs from March 17 to April 28 last year; Falmouth FM starts w/e before Memorial Day. Per a conversation with Matt, Patricia Gadsby would like to do advertising for the Meet and Greet in the Falmouth Enterprise. Board members are requested to bring a list of all of their contacts to the February 25th so that Heidi can create a consolidated mailing list of farmers and other interested parties.

**NOTE:** Motion and Vote will be done at February meeting because Warren Collins left the meeting early resulting in no quorum for voting. Farmer’s Meet and Greet will be held on May 18th. Heidi will draft a letter to the Falmouth farmers and will schedule farms tours.

**Documentary on Forgotten Farms:** Chair Schwalbe told the board about this documentary. Suggested the board meet at Alchemy Farm to watch this documentary with a potluck dinner.

**Jennifer Gaines has written many articles on Falmouth farming history:** Heidi Walz told the board about the many Jennifer Gaines’ articles: Harvesting, strawberry farming, woolen industries, salt works, bogs and many more. Heidi would like the AgComm to promote these Falmouth historical agriculture online articles.

**Survey of Agriculture Lands:** What are requirements with Andrews Farm to the Town so that the AgComm is clear on these requirements? A board member will be on the committee? Geoff Andrews needs to be clear on his expectations. The AgComm and the holding of an Agriculture Restriction is another issue and Chair Schwalbe will reach out to Jessica Whritenour for specifics.

**Agricultural Mapping:** Chair Schwalbe talked about the agricultural mapping that Debbie Roger, former AgComm board member had done. These maps have been utilized by Chair Schwalbe in her day job and she has asked for funding to extend the mapping to SE Massachusetts and funding was granted. Ms. Rogers will use the protocol from the New Entry Sustainable Farms to map Bristol, Norfolk and Plymouth counties. This will be modeled on the same mapping protocol she did for Falmouth. Ms. Rogers will update her previous Falmouth mapping as needed.

Next Meeting: February 25, 2019
Chair Schwalbe adjourned the meeting at 7:20pm.