

**Agricultural Commission**  
**Small Conference Room: Town Hall Falmouth**  
**January 13, 2020 at 6:30pm**

Present:

Karen Schwalbe, Chair  
Matt Churchill, absent  
Warren Collins  
Jack Simonds

Amy Vickers  
Jane Vose, Vice Chair  
Heidi Walz  
April Merriam, Recording Secretary, Absent

Chair Schwalbe called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

**Agenda:**

**Old Business:**

**Bogs:** Contact Brian Handy to come to a meeting to discuss bog management with us. Ditch work needs to be done when bogs are dry. Chair Schwalbe will contact ConCom to see if the AgComm could obtain a blanket permission slip to work on the two bogs in March 2020 for mowing and/or other approved work. Contact Cape Cod Cranberry Growers Association or the research station for input on the bogs.

**Spring Lecture Series:**

Falmouth Public Library dates for February through May 2020: Jane will contact library for 3 possible dates for the same night for each lecture.

Falmouth Farming Film Series at Cinema Pub on February 27<sup>th</sup> at 8pm.

Lecture Series topics: Goats and chicken with Karen and Megan; beekeeping and Warren; pest control with Russ; pot seed starting practices with Stan; tool practices with Matt; meet local farmer's panel.

Promotion sites: Produce on-line poster as a mail out.

**Andrews Farm and Article 97:** Oversee transfer of control from ConCom to AgComm as the overseeing body. Requires rollcall vote of the House.

**Community Gardens Update:** Stan reported that there is a great need to get the word out to the general public regarding the availability of garden plots. CG meeting on Thursday this week.

**Emerald House Property:** Dick Pooley is working with the Council on Disabilities to keep them interested in bringing a community garden to the Emerald House property.

**Farming Falmouth:** Stan stated Geoff Andrews asked if Farming Falmouth would plant 50 fruit trees along both sides of the farm lanes. Mr. Andrews thought this would be a way to bring the public to the farm and harvested fruit would go to the Farm Stand and he would receive a %. A fund raiser would be needed to purchase the trees. FF wants organic, Geoff doesn't. Contact Russ for input. Need to know buyer's market.

**Peterson Farm:** No Conservation Restriction on the farm and board questioned if needed.

**New Business:**

**Selectmen Annual Presentation for AgComm:** Chair Schwalbe will present on April 27<sup>th</sup> detailing the AgComm's 2019 work plan. Board will need to work on the details.

**SEAMAP Conference:** February 23<sup>rd</sup> in Taunton

**Work Plan for 2020 and onward:** Discuss projects this board wants to accomplish in 2020 and onward with individual members bringing their ideas. There is at the SEAMAP conference a workshop for agricultural commissions aligning plans with state's local food plan. Provides a forum to look at projects. AgComm sessions can be free. Federally illegal to buy marijuana seeds over internet or mail but it is not enforced. Chair Schwalbe will send out link to SEAMAP conference.

**Next Meeting:** January 27, 2020

Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm

