

5-4-2023 Ag Com meeting minutes

Carolyn Wheeler Ernie Kelley Sara Davis Becky Ashenden
Prudy Wholey Guests, Elaine Peteroy and Jamie Pottorn from American
Farmland Trust. Barbara Miller, FLT, Ashfield and Al Averill, USDA and soil
conservation scientist(retired?) via zoom.

7 PM The meeting tonight focused mainly on the Farmland of Local
Importance in Massachusetts. About 51 towns have gotten involved in this
program, where farms can be recognized for local importance even if all their
land is not prime. There are some stipulations for consideration, but some of
the members are interested in following up on this. We voted to go forward
with the FLI. Becky moved. Carolyn seconded. Becky Ashenden will sign
any documents.

June 22, 2023 is a pasture walk at Wheelview Farm.

Jay Silverman, NE Farmland Finder, Farm for Good is a resource for people
looking for land to use. There is also farm viability to assist in this.

The secretary's report was accepted as read. Ernie moved, Becky seconded.
The treasury has \$1593.86. We could use some for mini grants. Carolyn
stated that some of the young people we gave grants to are still involved in
their grant projects.

Becky's Barn Fest is going to be on October 14, 2023. She has a full schedule
of events, including home-grown food, for the day. She is looking for
donations for her Fabric of Life. We might combine with Becky at some
point to help promote town agriculture.

The average age of farmers is 68 years old. It is important to involve young
people in agriculture. Transitioning from generation to generation is an issue
we should discuss.

Who is the town animal inspector? Questions concerning dog issues,
including livestock/dog interactions.

The town planning board has Faith Williams.

Tricia Biage and Rick LaPierre are running for select board.

The meeting was adjourned at 9PM. Sara moved, Carolyn seconded.

Prudence Wholey, secretary