

*Jun 09 2023 11:44 am*

**City of Fitchburg  
Agricultural Commission**

April 4, 2023, 6:00pm, at the City Hall, West Meeting Room.

**MINUTES**

Commissioners Present: Jennifer Barlow, Evan Halstead, Ingrid Wheeler, James Momanyi (arrived 6:27)

Commissioners Absent: Yonna Coon (sent regrets)

AGENDA ITEMS

**1. Call to Order**

Meeting Opened by Evan Halstead at 6:21pm. Roll call was conducted.

**2. Nomination and Election of Officers: Chair and Secretary**

*Motion* by Ingrid Wheeler to nominate Evan Halstead for Chair and Jennifer Barlow as Secretary. (Jen Barlow 2<sup>nd</sup>) Vote: 3-0.

**3. Establish Regular Meeting Dates**

*Motion* by Ingrid Wheeler to meet 6 times year, on the first Tuesday at 6:30pm of every other month starting April 4, 2023. (Jen Barlow 2<sup>nd</sup>). Vote: 3-0.

Next meeting: June 6 2023 6:30pm

**4b. Agricultural Preservation Fund**

*Motion* by Jen Barlow to establish an Agricultural Preservation Fund. for use by the Commission for any purpose authorized in MGL Chapter 40, Section 8L (Ingrid Wheeler 2<sup>nd</sup>). Vote: 4-0

We then reviewed Agricultural Commission Article 3-284 B.7 which specifies that the Commission may receive gifts, grants, and bequests for the purpose of discharging the Commission's duties. Janet Morrison explained that once we vote to establish the fund, the Mayor's office and City Council must approve.

Ingrid Wheeler noted that we may be able to apply for grant funding for educational programming, curriculum development, afterschool programming, and job training programs. Janet agreed.

*Motion* by Jen Barlow to accept a donation of \$5,000 to the Agricultural Preservation Fund, by a donor who wishes to remain anonymous at this time. (Ingrid Wheeler 2<sup>nd</sup>). Vote: 4-0

Janet Morrison and the Commission Officers will work with the City to obtain approval for the Agricultural Preservation Fund and the donation.

*Motion* by Evan Halstead to enter into Executive Session for Agenda Item 4a (Farmland Acquisition), pursuant to the Open Meeting Law, for the purpose of discussing possible conservation of specific farms

in Fitchburg, to maintain the privacy of landowners and to protect possible future negotiations with the City. (Ingrid Wheeler 2<sup>nd</sup>). Discussion: Chair announced that the meeting will adjourn after the Executive Session. Vote: 4-0

**Public Meeting is closed.**

## **6. Adjournment**

*Motion* by Evan Halstead to adjourn the meeting (Ingrid Wheeler 2<sup>nd</sup>). Vote: 4-0.