

Aug 03 2023 8:05 am

**City of Fitchburg
Agricultural Commission**

REGULAR MEETING

June 6, 2023, 6:30pm, at the City Hall East Meeting Room

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Evan Halstead (Chair), Jen Barlow (Secretary), Ingrid Wheeler

Commissioners Absent: James Momanyi, Yonna Coon

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Call to Order

Meeting Opened by Evan Halstead at 2:35pm. Roll call was conducted.

2. Approve previous meeting minutes

Motion by Secretary to approve the minutes of the public portion of the April 4th meeting. Second by Evan Halstead. No discussion. Vote to approve: 3-0

Motion by Secretary to approve the minutes of the public portion April 22th meeting. Second by Evan Halstead. Evan pointed out that the minutes did not include mention of a roll call vote; we agreed it should be added. Vote to approve as amended: 3-0

Motion by Secretary to approve the minutes of the public portion May 4th meeting. Second by Ingrid Wheeler. Evan pointed out that the minutes did not include mention of a roll call vote; we agreed it should be added. Vote to approve as amended: 3-0

3. Right to Farm signs for Fitchburg

Commission Advisor Janet Morrison explained that Fitchburg passed a Right to Farm bylaw which allows for agricultural activities on properties zoned as Rural Residential, and exempts farmers from liability for nuisance complaints about noise, odors and other consequences of agricultural activities. The bylaw serves to inform the public about agricultural activities, encourages respect for the rights of farmers, and shows community support for agriculture in Fitchburg.

We could come up with a design (typically 12 x15), and it would be relatively cheap to make 12-20 signs, which could be installed by DPW on regular sign posts. Jen shared images of signs from neighboring communities. Ingrid asked where they would be posted, and Janet suggested on the main roads entering Fitchburg, and perhaps on roads near farmland properties.

Motion by Jen Barlow to approve the design and construction of Right to Farm signs for Fitchburg. Second by Evan Halstead. Evan asked how much we thought this might cost, and Janet estimated \$35-

\$50 each, constructed of metal or aluminum with mounting holes. Ingrid wondered if we could involve Monty Tech or FSU to assist in the design. Vote to approve: 3-0

Motion by Jen Barlow to approve the use of funds in the Agricultural Preservation Fund (AGP) for this expense, conditional on the City Council approval of the AGP. Second by Ingrid Wheeler. Vote to approve: 3-0.

4. Executive Session

Motion by Evan Halstead to enter into Executive Session pursuant to the Open Meeting Law to consider the purchase, exchange, taking, lease, or value of real property if such discussion may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the governmental body. Not to return to open session at the conclusion of the executive session. Second by Jen Barlow. Vote: 3-0

Public Meeting is closed.