

## CONWAY AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

**DRAFT**

**MEETING MARCH 20, 2019**

### **MINUTES:**

Meeting opened at 7:15

Members Present: Jason Silverman, Chair; Susan Schroder; Mary Parker Secretary

Guests: Philip Bowman & John Moore

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- Susan has had no response regarding a meeting for Right to Farm signs from Ron Sweet in spite of calls and a message left at the Town Office.
- Mary said she is looking for him regarding tree cutting and if she finds him will speak to him about a 'sign size' meeting.
- After 'light' research it seems that new residents have not received any type of form introductory packet to the Town including Right to Farm By-Laws. Mary said she would check w/ Joannie Schwartz to see if realtors hand out that sort of information.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- Philip Bowman and Jon Moore introduced themselves as parties who were planning to star-up organic/sun grown pot growing facilities. Mr. Bowman a 2-acre plot and Mr. Moore a 3 acre plot.
- Both men presented their plans for the sites along with details regarding the process both with the State and Town. As well as financial benefit to the Town and perhaps future farming in Conway.
- After a lengthy and detailed question and answer session where Committee members had the opportunity to get a basic introduction to organic/sun grown pot and the steps needed to be taken to meet both State and Town requirements.
- Also addressed was concerns for security, odor, non-permanent building and lightening.
- Mary finally asked: 'What exactly do you want from the Commission'.
- Both men are seeking the support of the Ag/Com in defending their position that land used for organic/sun grown pot (not using greenhouses –

just temporary shelter for over wintering plants) remain under the Chapter 61A heading.

- Philip and John would also like the AgCom to be the 'go-to' organization for pot growing complaints such as odor, etc. And, in addition, were seeking support that for a outdoor pot growing facility an architectural site plan should not be need; which is quite costly. The premise being there are no permanent buildings.
- It was hoped that the AgCom would support their requests by letter to various Conway Committees involved with the pot growing business in Conway.
- Following a brief discussion among themselves, the AgCom voted unanimously to support the request of Mr. Bowman and Mr. Moore with regards to 61A status, complaint oversight and the lack of need for architectural site planning for outdoor pot growing.
- Committee then outlined a letter to be drafted and approved by the AgCom to be sent to Town committees.

Next Meeting: March 27, 2019 – 6 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.