



PLANNING AND SUSTAINABILITY • CITY OF NORTHAMPTON

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Northampton Agricultural Commission Agenda and Minutes

7:30 PM Tuesday September 27, 2016
Planning & Sustainability, 210 Main Street, 2nd floor, City Hall
Northampton, MA

Members present:

Chair John Omasta	✓	Chip Parsons	✓	Stan Zawalick	✓
Vice Chair Rich Jaescke	✓	Tim Smith	✓		
John Bobala	✓	Robert Vollinger	✓	Wayne Feiden (staff)	✓

1. Public comment—NO public comment
2. Welcome back- Chair Omasta greeted the members after a dry growing season.
3. Approval of Agriculture Commission minutes of March 9, 2016, upon motion by Chip Parsons and second by Rich Jaescke, by unanimous vote.
4. Farmland at Montview Avenue section, Meadows Conservation Area—Rich Jaescke discussed the work he did getting the farmland ready for planting, the garlic that has been planted, and his hope that ¼ acre of fallow land can be used as a farm incubator. To be discussed with the Meadows City Conservation Coalition, in October.
5. Certified “Bee City USA”—To be discussed with Peggy MacLeod at their October meeting
6. Changes to Agriculture Commissions from the Municipal Modernization Act—Feiden went over the changes to Commission make up and potential scope from this new legislation. The Commission agreed, by consensus, to request that the Conservation Commission charge the Agriculture Commission with managing farmland and farmland license rules of operation, while leaving it to staff to coordinate with farmers to avoid any potential conflict of interest.
7. Jail “work farm” and other farmland preservation—Feiden reported that the legislature passed a bill to transfer the former state’s Venturers Field Road farmland to the City, although that transfer has not taken place yet.
8. Agriculture Commissions joint meeting—the commission agreed to support a regional agriculture commission meeting this year, maybe in Deerfield, and to urge the Dept. of Agriculture Resources to invite agriculture commissions and farmers.

Next meeting date: Tuesday October 25, 2016 at 7:30 PM

Adjourn: 8:30 PM