



## PLANNING AND SUSTAINABILITY • CITY OF NORTHAMPTON

planning • conservation • zoning • northampton GIS • historic • community preservation • central business architecture

Wayne Feiden, FAICP, Director of Planning and Sustainability • wfeiden@northamptonma.gov • 413-587-1265

### Northampton Agricultural Commission Agenda and Minutes 7:30 PM Tuesday October 25, 2016 Planning & Sustainability, 210 Main St., 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**—There was no public comment.
2. **Agriculture Commissions joint meeting 2017:** Pete Westover discussed plans for the joint regional meeting on Saturday January 14, 2017 in Deerfield, co-sponsored by the Northampton and Deerfield Agriculture Commissions. Commission members agreed that the agenda could include the new agriculture commission legislation, RMV rules for farm vehicles, and a general discussion. Pete Westover will coordinate the effort.
3. **Approval of Agriculture Commission minutes of September 27, 2016**, upon motion by Rich Jaescke and second by Stan Zawalick, by unanimous vote.
4. **Farmland at Montview, Meadows Conservation Area**, with Jane Potter, Meadows City Conservation Coalition (MCCC)—Jane Potter thanked Rich Jaescke for the mowing, plowing and harrowing he did at the farmland at Montview to prepare it for the current garlic farm. Rich Jaescke suggested that the last half-acre of farmland at Montview should be an incubator farm. He offered to mow, plow, and harrow it if MCCC finds a farmer. Jane Potter said she would explore that option with MCCC and the Conservation Commission.
5. **Bee City USA--** Peggy MacLeod explained the desire to create pollinator friendly areas of the city and shared these goals and a sample resolution. She stressed that this need not discourage herbicide treatment of some farmland. The commission express interest.
6. **Request to manage agricultural portions of conservation properties and farmland licenses**—The Agriculture Commission request to set the basic rules for farming licenses will be going before the Conservation Commission.
7. **Updates--** Wayne Feiden reported 1) Agriculture Commission staffing may move to a new land specialist that the city just hired, 2) legislation passed to transfer the Venturers Field former jail “work farm” to the City, although it will take a year, and 3) adjusting the stormwater utility rates is under some discussion.

**Set next meeting date:** Tuesday November 22, 2016

**Adjourn:** The Commission adjourned at 8:50 PM.

City Hall • 210 Main Street • Northampton, MA 01060 • [www.northamptonma.gov/OPD](http://www.northamptonma.gov/OPD)