

**Agricultural Commission**  
**First Floor Meeting Room, Town Hall**  
**Tuesday, January 14, 2020**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
*(approved 3/10/20)*

**Present:** Ryan Karb, Chris Von Achen, Jada Haas, Masoud Hashemi

**Staff:** Stephanie Ciccarello and David Ziomek

**Public:** Caitlin Marquis, Sarah Bankert and Rossana Salazar

- 1) Meeting called to order at 7:15
- 2) Approved Minutes from July 16<sup>th</sup> meeting
- 3) Discussion on ways Amherst/Ag Com can support pollinators. Discussion included dissemination of materials to area farmers, town planting flowers/flower baskets that are beneficial to pollinators, and potential endorsement of non-binding pollinator resolution.
- 4) Discussion on community gardens in Amherst, two potential new gardens. Fort River Farm- land has been purchased, location ideal near some apartment complexes, next step is more development of resources there, as well as soil tests. Hickory Ridge- former golf course off of West Pomeroy, town in talks to purchase 150 acres of land, lease 25 back for solar. There is possibility of community gardens being implemented in portion of land closest to the Boulders and South Point apartment complex.
- 5) Healthy Hampshire came in and discussed food access work- developed community gardens and mobile markets in Northampton and the Hilltowns. Looking at developing community garden at Southpoint- there is demand, will be working with management to determine feasibility. There is a mobile market that will be piloted in Amherst this summer- 20k will be provided to operator of mobile market. Planning on identifying 2 sites for visitations, more planning is currently being done.
- 6) Next meeting- Tuesday, February 11<sup>th</sup>.
- 7) Adjourn 9:00 PM

Submitted,  
Chris Von Achen

