

Warner Agricultural Commission Minutes

July 8th, 2024

In attendance:

Mike Biagiotti

Cathy Aranosian

Bob Bowers

Mike Amaral

Noah Corser-Kellerman

Approval of Minutes from April 13th Meeting – Approved

Mike Amaral mentioned that he had meet with the select board on request. Mike B mentioned that he had been asked to attend a meeting but responded that he could not make that date. He has not heard anything since. All members under new terms or positions mentioned that had been properly sworn in at the Clerks office.

Correspondence to Housing Committee from Ag Committee. Bob provided his opinion on the unique needs of farms as it pertains to seasonal staff housing. He suggested that workforce housing be allowed in zones where agriculture is permitted by special exception.

Discussion continued on the exact wording of the correspondence to be sent to the Housing Committee. The below final correspondence was approved and sent:

To Whom It May Concern:

With regard to zoning changes being considered by the Town of Warner concerning housing, the Warner Agricultural Commission stresses that existing farms contribute to the quality of life and highly valued rural character of Warner. Also that existing farms and prime farmland should be preserved and barriers to entry for new farmers should be minimized.

At this time specifically we recommend:

1. No further zoning changes in areas zoned as OC, OR, R2, R3.
2. Recognition that employee housing needs for farm workers are unique to agricultural business. Detached housing for farm workers should be allowed by special exception for working farms.

The Agricultural Commission also requests that we be included in further discussions as it pertains to potential zoning changes and detached employee housing.

Sincerely,

Mike Biagiotti, Chair

Warner Agricultural Commission

mikebiagiotti@gmail.com

The next discussion focused on future events to be hosted by Warner AgComm. Mike B shared he had met with the area representative from the UNH Extension and that there were plans to host a speaking engagement with them in 2025. Planning for that event would take place this fall.

In addition former NH Agricultural Commissioner Steve Taylor was mentioned as another possible resource for a speaking engagement. Mike B volunteered to reach out to Mr. Taylor.

Noah recommended an agenda item for next meeting regarding “alternative structures to farm land ownership” and suggested Brett Ingold could be a resource for that discussion.

Mike B also asked that AgComm Social Media also be on the agenda

The meeting was adjourned with the next meeting scheduled for August 12th.