



Ruthanne Fuller  
Mayor

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Barney S. Heath  
Director

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**NEWTON FARM COMMISSION**  
MEETING MINUTES  
November 2, 2023.

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Meeting opened at 7:06 p.m. with the following attendees

MEMBERS PRESENT: Michael Goldman, Jefferey Zabel, Cheryl Lappin, Lori Yarvis, and Jim Harper

MEMBERS ABSENT: John Rice and Beth Wilkinson

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Paul Holt (Co-President), Dede Vittori (Co-President), and Barbara Seal (Co-Treasurer), Madelyn Sorensen (Co-Treasurer)

STAFF: Brenda Belsanti, Planning & Development Department

● **Financials Q3, 2023**

- The Commission reviewed the financials of Q3, 2023 and Dede and Barbara fielded all questions.
- Starting the Fall Appeal process now for donations
- May have expenses in Q4 that may be a little more than budgeted and looking for discounts on supplies for next year.
- Solar is giving us a credit balance now for electric, but it will most likely dwindle. It will be interesting to see the full year.
- Going to CPA to request funds for repairs to Barn Deck and windows/doors.
- Insurance has not been finalized.

● **Farm Operations**

- Flooding from Nahant Street came onto the property and lost 10%-20% of what was left of the crops. Trying to work with the City to see what can be done.
- Due to the theft earlier in the year two cameras are being installed at the Farm Stand and three cameras on the Barn. The cameras run 24/7 and erase every 30 days.
- Notices will be posted regarding the cameras.
- The season is mostly finishing up – a few things left in the greenhouses. Most of the Harvest Bags have already been harvested.
- Farm Stand is closing early since it gets dark earlier in the day.

- **Recent Activities**

- Fall Family Party with 130 people and tailored to small children.
- Fall CSA – 35 families signed up for four distributions.
- Wegman’s were very helpful this year – cleaned up the orchard, took fencing down, and put coverings on the greenhouse.
- A lot of requests for volunteering activities.
- Sue had sessions with young kids.
- The last month has been on-boarding Allyson with Sue.
- Finalized 2024 CSA policy.
- Appeals are ready to go.
- Starting the next year budget.

- **New Director Update**

- New Director of Administration, Allyson McKenna began working.
- She worked for 10 years at Yankee Golden Retriever Rescue in Hudson, MA doing a variety of things including regulatory and legal issues.
- She has a legal degree from Western New England University.

- **Meeting Minutes from August 3, 2023**

A motion was made to approve of minutes by Cheryl Lappin. This motion was duly seconded by Lori Yarvis. This motion passed 4-0 with one abstaining.

- **Adjournment**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Jim Harper. This motion was duly seconded by Jeff Zabel. This motion passed 5-0.

Meeting adjourned 7:57 p.m.

Next meeting – **February 1, 2024.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Brenda Belsanti, Staff