

TOWN OF WESTHAMPTON
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING

DATE : Nov 10, 2020

CALLED TO ORDER : 7:00 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Arthur Clapp, Steve Holt, Rick Tracy, Marilyn Witherell, Jack Moynihan

OLD BUSINESS : NONE

NEW BUSINESS : Barbara Pellesier returned to the Board to continue her complaint of Brad Morse's spraying of crops without first providing notice (see Meeting Minutes of July 14, 2020 and Sept. 8, 2020). She indicated she was told by the Board of Selectmen to work it out with the Agriculture Committee. Barbara proposed three options for the Commission to consider: 1) Secure an independent arbitrator ; 2) Agree to support an amendment to the Town's Right to Farm By-Law; or 3) Support and /or draft a new By-Law addressing the spraying of crops in Town.

After considerable discussion, the Commission advised her that the Commission would have to see the proposed By-Law amendment before it could make any recommendation. The Commission also suggested that she contact the Select Board to determine what the correct process would be for her to seek an amendment or new By-Law. Securing an independent mediator was felt to be beyond the scope of the Commission's responsibility and probably would be unsuccessful as voluntary mediation requires both parties to agree to the mediation .

CORRESPONDANCE :

*The Commission's letter which was sent to Brad Morse following the Sept 8, 2020 meeting was read into the record.

* Chris Wayne, a coordinator from "Grown in Westhampton" provided an overview of the organization's activities and objectives . It is a social organization comprised of people who are involved in various aspects of agriculture on a part-time or "hobby" basis. They are interested in providing

information on an outreach basis and making residents of Westhampton aware of their efforts and products. Arthur Clapp suggested that some joint efforts might be beneficial to both our groups.

OTHER ISSUES NOT ANTICIPATED AT TIME OF POSTING: NONE

SELECT DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS :

January 8, 2021

ADJOURNMENT : 8:00 PM