

Agricultural Committee Meeting February Minutes - February 23, 2026

In Attendance: *Franklin Agricultural Commission: Marian Szymanski, CJ Koshivas, Benjamin Rousseau, Matt Stolz, and Jen Andersen Sweeney. Also present: Mark LePage, Roger Trahan and Breeka Li Goodlander from the Franklin Conservation Commission.*

Call to Order: The Meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM by Marian Szymanski

Acceptance of the Minutes: The Minutes from our January 2026 Meeting were unanimously accepted.

New Business:

A. Proposal to Link Ag Commission PPP to Town Website:

Ag Commission member, Jen Anderson Sweeney explained her proposal. The Commission unanimously approved her suggestion, contingent on the Town's approval.

Old Business:

A. Earth Day 2026 Event:

The Agricultural Commission will partner with the Conservation Commission and Fairmount farm for this event. The Con Com members will have an information table and will lead tours of local conservation land. An assortment of local vendors will have tables for an earth Day farmer's Market, and residents can create birdfeeders and bug hotels, plant seeds, learn about soil, and enjoy some adorable baby goats!

B. Event For 5+ Acre Property Owners:

The Agricultural Commission will host an informational event on April 22, from 7 to 9, in the Municipal Building's Council Chambers. Franklin residents – especially property owners of five acres or more- will be invited to learn more about the benefits of the Chapter 61 Programs, AGE's, and other means to protect land from development. The event will be in-person, on Zoom, and on local television.

C. Meeting with the Town Administrator:

The Agricultural Commission will meet with Jamie Hellen on March 5, from 10:00 to 11:00 to discuss future goals and plans.

D. Franklin Agricultural Farm Brochure:

The Ag Commission discussed the status of the brochure which has been submitted to the Town's GIS department.

E. Franklin Farmer Interviews:

The Agricultural Commission agreed on a list of questions we will ask our local farmers to gather information for the future digital story-Maps. Each Ag Com member will interview 1 or 2 farmers in person. Marian will send a questionnaire to the remaining farmers and will collect their responses.

Meeting was adjourned: At 8:30 pm

Respectfully submitted

Marian Szymanski-