

~Ag Com Meeting with Town Administrator Minutes~

3/5/2026 10:00am

1. Meeting with Town Administrator- March 5th 10:00 -11:00 at the Municipal Building *Present: Jamie Hellen – Town Administrator, Marian Szymanski, C.J. Koshivas, Benjamin Rousseau, and Jen Anderson Sweeney*

Discussion Topics:

A. Making Franklin, MA a Right-to-Farm Town-

The Ag Commission explained what the “Right-To-Farm” By-law means and what it would do for the town of Franklin. Jamie Hellen’s understanding of the By-law was not the same as the Commission’s. Jamie Hellen agreed to do some research into this By-law. The Town Administrator suggested the possibility of creating a customized By-law that could prevent some of the opposition he predicted would come from other Boards, Commissions, and Committees in the town.

B. Ag Commission’s use of land-

The Town Administrator listened to our reasons for wanting the use of some town land, but explained that, at this time, there is no land available for our use. The property, known as, “Schmidt’s Farm”, will not be a possibility for several years – as construction on the property is a year and a half away from beginning. There is currently no sewer and no water on the property. The Ag Commission suggested the possibility of creating produce gardens at our local schools. Marian will connect with the people in charge of the grounds at Franklin’s schools.

C. Future Community Canning center-

Jamie Hellen heard our thoughts on the benefits of creating a community canning/processing center, and informed us that this would need to be a private endeavor built with private money – perhaps in a co-op relationship.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marian Szymanski