

Sterling Ag Com March 2, 2015

Meeting opened at 7:35 pm Present: Mike Pineo, Bob Nickerson, Dave Grinkis, Jenn Janowicz, Ann Starbard and guests Kathy Harragian, Dawn Hartnett.

No minutes were approved.

Bob Nickerson has the annual report ready to submit to the town clerk.

Calendar: Annual notification was printed in the February Sterling Meetinghouse News. Review of annual budget - same request as previous years \$750.00.

Welcome new member - Jenn Janowicz. The Select Board approved Jenn's appointment at a previous meeting.

The MGL Chapter 61 seminar is still a go for Monday April 20 at 7 pm. Mass. Farm Bureau's Brad Mitchell will be the speaker. Site is yet to be determined. Choices are: 1) school auditorium, 2) 1st Church, and 3) 1835 Town Hall. Bob N. will look into these options and secure one for the date.

Ann S. will do the PR for the event, including sending notice to Sterling town website, Mass. Ag com website, Sterling Meetinghouse News, Landmark, Clinton Item, Rick LeBlanc (for MDAR elist), Lisa Trotto for Worc. Ag Com group.

Looking at Ag Commission positions open for 2015. Bob Smiley, regular member, position is open, Ann Starbard, regular member, position will be open, Diane Melone, alternate member, position is open. All members need to think or and solicit possible members.

Farmer Market - Dawn Hartnett opened a discussion about the Market becoming a town sponsored event. One reason is that the concept of obtaining weekly sponsors for the market has been successful to the point that the market may begin to generate more operating income. A discussion amongst the market vendors and Bob Nickerson is scheduled for the end of the this week. A followup discussion will take place at the April meeting.

Kathy Harragian asked a question about personal property taxes that are being sent to her for an orchard sprayer. The Ag Com members suggested she inform the assessors that the sprayer is a piece of equipment for her agricultural business and not her landscaping business. This could be the misunderstanding.

There are corrections that need to be made to the ag com page on town website regarding farmstands. Also, a brief discussion on redoing a brochure ?? No motions made on either task.

Motion to adjourn, 8:40 pm. Dave G. 1st, Mike P. 2nd

Respectfully Submitted, Ann Starbard, Clerk.