

AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COUNCIL-MEETING MINUTES-PUTNAM FARM SITE VISIT 1-5-2022

Summary: Agricultural Advisory Council members met at Putnam Farm at 2PM to conduct a site visit to look at the newly created Phase 3 grower areas, and to look at each existing plots 1-5, concerning the unresolved issues described in letters sent to some of the growers from John Jannell-ConsCom Administrator.

Members Present: Steve Ellis (Ag Council Putnam Farm Liaison), Heather Bailey, Gretely Norgeot, Judy Scanlon (Chair, pro-tem).

Others Present: Peter Jenson (Ag Council Member candidate), Michael Herman (Select Board Liaison), Rick Francolini (Putnam Farm Advocate).

Topics discussed during the site visit included plot issues identified in the ConsCom letters sent to growers, as well as dogs on the site, possible fencing, better signage, review and possible revisions to the grower policy, better boundary designations for existing and new plots, educational/training needs for existing and new growers, including condition of a plot when a grower leaves, water use, need for pictorial examples for new growers, possible security deposit, secure storage structures, and irrigation line placement. How the Ag Advisory Council could be act as an intermediary to help resolve issues and next steps were also discussed.

A question came up about the planting of perennial plants and berry bushes and fruit trees, and how this should be handled when a grower leaves. It was agreed that this needs further evaluation.

Specific issues related to plots 1-5 that were discussed included:

- o Growing and storage outside of the designated 15' back plot boundary areas.
- o Blocked access behind plots due to compost piles or equipment, water storage containers or debris.
- o Unsightly storage and/or unsecured row covers.
- o Misc. non-garden items left on seasonally inactive plots.

Actions: Ag Advisory Council members decided to act as an intermediary regarding correction of the plot issues, and invite the existing growers of plots 1-5 to our meeting on 1-10-22.

Members all agreed that the work the town and advocates have done to date to prepare the new Phase 3 growing areas and the new hedge row/wind break, looked great.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy Scanlon, Chair pro-tem

Approved 1/10/22
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JAS