

**WALLINGFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
FARMLAND LEASE PROGRAM COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING
August 6, 2010**

The meeting was called to order at 5:10 p.m. by Dianne Saunders. Other committee members present were: Commissioners Carl Arsenault and Thomas Pietras. Also present: Conservation Commissioners Mary Heffernon and Jeff Borne; and Environmental Planner, Erin O'Hare.

The following items were discussed:

- 1.) Status of current leases: 2 items need to be decided/worked on as soon as possible, in order to have sufficient time to prepare for the 2012-2016 lease cycle:
 - a. Updating field maps – Mr. Pietras has remapped the wetlands for several fields. All agreed Mr. Pietras will work on making sure maps are updated as needed.
 - b. Clearer determination of 'crop area' vs. 'lease area', including resolution of maintenance of hedgerows and buffers. There is a need for clarification due to variations in the fields. The farmland lease committee will continue working on recommendations for this issue.

(Note: Tom Pietras excused himself from the meeting at this point).

- c. The Committee will begin the formal monitoring reports very soon. Based on today's meeting, the letter to farmers will be sent out explaining the new formal monitoring system. Ms. Saunders will finish the draft of the letter, and Ms. O'Hare will look at it on behalf of the Town. After the letter goes out, the new formal monitoring reports will be completed for mid-season 2010. Everyone has assignments, based on the prior month's meeting. Each Committee member has 2 farmers. Committee members will continue to monitor informally all year and maintain communication with the farmers. The Environmental Planner can also request information or monitoring by the committee at any time during the year. Twice annually, Committee members will fill out the formal monitoring report forms.

(Note: at this time, about 6:20 pm, Mr. Borne, Ms. Heffernon, and Ms. O'Hare, left the meeting).

- 2.) Status of maple sugar bid specs, Anderson Rd.: Carl Arsenault presented a detailed list of the various proposed specifications, which were reviewed in detail. They will be typed up in draft bid document form for consideration by the Conservation Commission.

Open question: tractor/vehicle access for the proposed maple sugar lease. Consensus was that the maple sugar lessee should not go in Field 7C with vehicles. The committee will look for a suitable arrangement to recommend in the bid specifications.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Dianne Saunders, Farmland Lease Committee Chair