

## Ipswich Agricultural Commission

### Minutes of the Meeting of February 8, 2023

**Members and Associates participating:** Jay Stanbury, Royce Knowlton, Norm Swanson, Shendel Bakal, Charlotte Kahn

**Members not present:** Eric Galicki

**Non-members present:** Kat Kenney, Jerry Kenney, Rachael Belisle-Toler

**Meeting Location:** Ipswich Town Hall, Room B-2

**Minutes:** The minutes for the Commission meeting on January 11, 2023 were approved unanimously.

**Citizens' queries and comment:**

- None

#### **Agenda Items**

##### Town Water Supply

- Rachael Belisle-Toler, who has recently joined the staff at the Ipswich Water Department, was present to discuss current issues of and future plans for the Town's water supply. After introducing herself, discussion turned to the status of the proposed Lynch well on Linebrook Road. The Commission was informed that this project is on hold pending resolution of an issue regarding the Parker River watershed, but that the Lynch site will probably proceed thereafter. The projected withdrawal for the Lynch well hasn't been determined yet. The Commission noted the potential impact of this project on agricultural activity on farmland adjacent to the well site.
- Members of the Commission commented on a perceived lack of transparency on the part of the Water Department regarding its plans in the past. It was requested that the Department Director schedule a public hearing to clarify its plans and provide information regarding expected withdrawals and impact on surrounding properties.
- Members of the Commission discussed attempts to install private wells on their property, and how various regulatory agencies have impacted these attempts.
- There was a general discussion of the possibility of capturing non-potable water from storm-water runoff or from treated waste water from the Town's plant.

##### Ascot Stables

- Kat and Jerry Kenney were present. The Commission asked them if they could provide a detailed description of the issues involved and a written cost proposal for the work required

under the Consent Agreement. The Commission noted that these documents will help us move forward.

Farmer's Market:

- Dana Sayers was unable to attend the meeting due to family duties.

**Other Business**

- None

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:20 pm.

Respectfully Submitted: Jay Stanbury, Chair, Town of Ipswich Agricultural Commission