

Ipswich Agricultural Commission

Minutes of the Meeting of March 8, 2023

Members and Associates participating: Jay Stanbury, Royce Knowlton, Norm Swanson, Shendel Bakal, Eric Galicki, Charlotte Kahn (by telephone)

Members not present: None

Non-members present: Kat Kenney, Jerry Kenney, Tanya Rosenbaum, Eric Josephson, Carolyn Walfield

Meeting Location: Ipswich Town Hall, Room B-2

Minutes: The minutes for the Commission meeting on February 8, 2023 were approved as revised.

Citizens' queries and comment:

- None

Agenda Items

Community Garden

- Carolyn Walfield, Tanya Rosenbaum, and Eric Josephson, representing the Ipswich Community Garden members, were present to discuss their plans for a new community garden. The current community garden on Pineswamp Road will become the site of a new public safety building, and thus not available in the near future. The garden members therefore are searching for a new site.
- One possible site is at Bialek Park. However, it was noted that several issues must be resolved for this location, including the proximity of wetlands, the availability of water, and demand for recreational uses by others. Other possible sites were mentioned, including Greenbelt properties and Strawberry Hill.
- The garden representatives presented a marked-up aerial photo of the Bialek Park site showing a series of rectangular garden beds within a fenced-in area. They noted that they would like to start construction of the garden during the summer of 2023, subject to permitting and availability of funds.

Ascot Stables

- Kat and Jerry Kenney updated the Commission on the status of the restoration order that they have received from the Ipswich Conservation Commission. The Kenneys noted that they have spent substantial funds so far on consultants, and that the construction costs to comply (which have not yet been provided) are expected to be particularly burdensome and detrimental to their business. It was suggested that the Kenneys seek to negotiate an amended order with the Conservation Commission that would be acceptable to both parties.

Other Business

- Charlotte Kahn noted that Earth Day 2023 will take place on April 22, and that the Commission should do something to help celebrate this event. She suggested that the Commission purchase gift certificates to the Three Sisters garden organization, to be awarded to participants who assist in a town-wide clean-up project. The Commission voted to commit \$100 of its FY 2023 budget to this end.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jay Stanbury
Chair, Town of Ipswich Agricultural Commission