

## Ipswich Agricultural Commission

### Minutes of the Meeting of May 17, 2023

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

**Members not present:** Eric Galiki, Norm Swanson

**Non-members present:** Carolyn Walfield

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

**Minutes:** The minutes for the Commission meeting on April 12 were approved.

**Citizens' queries and comment:**

- None

#### Agenda Items

##### Community Garden

- Carolyn Walfield updated the Commission on the status of the Community Garden. She noted that the members are pursuing a site at the Bialek Field location, and that they will be submitting a proposal to the Select Board for this location.
- There are a number of issues that are under consideration, including wetland constraints, water supply, and sourcing and siting a storage shed. The Garden members are working with the appropriate town boards to resolve these issues.

##### FY 2023 budget balance

- The Commission has been informed that the budget balance for 2023 is \$900. The Commission voted unanimously to commit these funds for a series of advertisements in the Local News to promote local farms, similar to FY 2022.

#### Other Business

- It was noted that on May 9 Town Meeting voted to approve Article 17 of the Warrant. This article will allow the Town Water Department to lease certain land on Mile Lane to Marini Farms for agricultural use. The Commission is pleased that this article was approved, but expressed disappointment that the Water Department, which submitted the article, did not inform the Commission prior to submission. The Commission voted to draft a letter to the Town Manager requesting that in the future, all town departments inform the Commission of any proposed actions that would concern local agricultural activities as soon as possible.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jay Stanbury  
Chair, Town of Ipswich Agricultural Commission