

Sterling Agricultural Commission
Minutes
April 1, 2013

Attendance: Mike Pineo, Bob Smiley, Bob Nickerson, Susan Phinney, Ann Starbard

7:35 pm Call to order

Approve minutes of 2013 meetings:

Feb. 4 -Motion B. Smiley, Second B. Nickerson, unanimous

March 4 - Motion B. Smiley, Second B. Nickerson, unanimous

Correspondence - Packet of information received from Charla Kroll regarding a concern over businesses located on Chace Hill Road. M. Pineo said that all matters pertaining to the situation were addressed by the town, as well as other state and federal agencies, over a year ago. The current complaint, dated March 5, 2013, is not pertinent to agriculture in the town of Sterling. B. Smiley moved to accept this motion, B. Nickerson seconded. The vote was affirmed unanimously.

Chapter 61 issues were discussed. M. Pineo and B. Nickerson attended the MAAC meeting in early March and discussed Chapter 61 information with others who are well versed in Chapter 61. After speaking with the assessor department in town, there is an agreement that town residents only have to provide proof of income, not submit Schedule F as originally indicated. The assessor department is clearing up some issues where realtors and non-ag people are keeping land in Chapter 61 and receiving the tax break even though the income requirements are not being met. The proof of income is meant to resolve this issue.

M. Pineo asked the board to support the Sterling Farmers Market by helping to purchase a banner for the market. A 3 x 20 foot banner to hang across Main Street will cost \$400. The Market will assist with the purchase as necessary. Motion made by B. Smiley, Second A. Starbard, Unanimous.

New Business: S. Phinney suggested a new brochure be printed included Face of the Farmer individuals and website. There is only a handful of older brochures remaining. She will speak with Lisa Perry of Face of Farmer. The brochure could couple with a tour of Sterling farms in the fall??

Adjourn at 8:40 pm Motion by B. Nickerson, Second S. Phinney, unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,
A. Starbard, Clerk