

Marshfield Agricultural Commission Minutes
Meeting of January 6, 2020

Meeting called to order at 7:30PM in Hearing Room 2 at the Town Hall by Chair Lorrie Dahlen. Attending were Ed Duane, Annie Massed, Karen Vieira, Carolyn Housman, Kristen Webb, Lorrie Dahlen and Norma Haskins. Also attending were all Union St. abutters to Mounce's Meadow Community Gardens – Jamie and Lucy Hutchinson, David and Nancy Gavaza, Scott Stephenson, Tom and Maryellen Tighe, Steven Moraski, and Paul and Karen Behen.

It was decided to postpone the acceptance of the December 4, 2019 minutes to the next meeting.

CPC Grant proposal & Mounce's Meadow Community Gardens (MMCG):

Lorrie asked everyone present to introduce themselves. She then turned the meeting over to Karen Vieira who led the discussion with the MMCG abutters and members of the AgCom.

Karen began by stating that the meeting would focus on MMCG, and that we would not be discussing the Coast Guard Hill portion of the CPC proposal.

Karen explained that through emails, she learned that the MMCG abutters had objections to the additional parking in the CPC proposal, and she asked for input from the Commissioners. Ed explained he thought the plan for more parking was to move community gardeners further away from abutters. He answered questions from abutters regarding the need for more parking. Mr. Hutchinson spoke on behalf of the abutters, commenting that he was surprised by the need for more parking and expressing concern that the extra parking would encourage a busier place with more cars. He and others do not want to see more traffic. After a brief discussion of the parking area, Karen proposed removing 70 feet of additional parking from the CPC proposal.

Abutters' other concerns were the appearance of the garden and noise after hours. They think there should be more enforcement of the rules and more care taken to the appearance of the garden. Lorrie stated that AgCom had ideas to improve the rules for gardeners to address the care of the lots at the garden. Ed offered to meet with Mr. Gavaza to have him point out any trash not already removed.

The abutters wanted to know what the plans are for the part of Mounce's Meadows beyond the Community Gardens. Lorrie stated the AgCom does not have control of that lot (the adjacent meadow), and the abutters should direct their questions to the Conservation Commission.

Mr. Gavaza was concerned what's being done at MMCG will draw more traffic.

Karen explained that the AgCom has no plans to expand the size of the garden. Mr. Gavaza asked if we had a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) for MMCG. Lorrie told him we have no CSA at the Community Gardens; however, we have no control over who will ultimately use the adjacent meadow. Mr. Hutchinson wanted in writing the plans for the entire parcel including the adjacent meadow. Lorrie suggested he contact Conservation Commission for any documentation he needs regarding the adjacent meadow.

Concerns about rumors of a dog park were raised, and Lorrie stated clearly that the Ag Com does not support a dog park anywhere on Mounce's Meadows.

Mr. Hutchinson wanted in writing that we would not encourage a CSA or dog park in Mounce's Meadows. Karen said we would not have any use other than a garden at the Community Garden.

Additional discussion centered on creating a row of shrubs between the MMCG parking area and the driveway to help create a noise, visual and physical barrier between the garden and neighbors, also to prevent cars from using the abutter's driveway beyond the right of way. There was a brief discussion about adding a speed limit and signage for the right of way, and it was agreed that signage would be coordinated and with the agreement of the abutters.

We also discussed the generator shed, its placement and where the door will be to help cut down on noise for the neighbors.

Mrs. Hutchinson asked how we can enforce the rules set by the AgCom to keep the garden clean. Karen asked abutters to keep us informed of any problems ASAP so they can be addressed, and she also suggested one of the MMCG managers keep communications open with abutters.

Abutters all agreed that they concurred with our proposal and asked that a copy of the changes made tonight be sent to each abutter. It was agreed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:48PM.

Next meeting scheduled for February 12th.

Respectfully submitted,

Norma Haskins, Secretary