

Minutes of the Whately Ag Commission meeting 4/19/2022

Meeting opened at 6:03 with John Devine, Margaret Christie, Bill O'Bear, Jim Galonka and Doug Coldwell present.

Minutes from the February meeting were accepted unanimously.

The committee discussed the sharply elevated costs of ag inputs like fertilizer and waxed cardboard boxes. John mentioned seeing an uptick in farms that thought they would not need to borrow to start the season coming forward to apply for capital loans through the USDA.

Margaret reported the Ashman APR is proceeding, with a plan to replace a barn, which was destroyed in a storm two years ago.

Margaret attended an informational session hosted by the planning board to review an update to the towns floodplain overlay district and possible adoption of new bylaws with regard to what activities are permitted in the floodplain. At this time, the town is waiting for an update of the floodplain overlay district map from FEMA before proceeding. There will not be a vote at this year's town meeting on whether to adopt the bylaw so no action from the ag comm is needed at this time. Also it is unclear if there will be agricultural exemptions for some of the activities in the floodplain district.

The committee decided not to post a May meeting at this time unless an opinion from the ag comm is requested by another town board.

Meeting adjourned at 6:33

Doug Coldwell

Secretary, Whately AG. Comm.