**The Whately Agricultural Commission Minutes**

**Wednesday August 18, 2021**

**7:00 PM at the Town Office on sandy Lane**

**Also by Remote ZOOM Meeting**

Attendees: Doug Coldwell -Chairman

 John Devine- Secretary

 Margaret Christie- Member

 David Chamutka-Member

 Jim Golonka- Member

 Judy Markland- Guest

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 7:05 PM

Whately Flood Plain Bylaw Overview- Whately Planning Board member Judy Markland provided an overview of the updated map focusing on the areas with farming activity. She also reviewed provided a handout with Bylaw details including FEMA and Aquifer Overlay.

Resource Replacement Fees for Solar Installations- Whately Planning Board member Judy Markland provided continued with a briefing of a proposal to assess new construction of large-scale solar facilities. The fees would be charged to constructions on Agricultural and/or Environmentally Sensitive Land. To offset the impact of the project. As written, the initiative would affect land under MGL Chapter 61 or 61A conditionally.

John Devine agreed to serve as the Agricultural Commission’s member on the Resource Replacement Committee.

Whately Historical Society Exhibit- Judy Markland requested additional information about town agriculture for the Society’s display. John suggested calling the Whately Grange President- Ruth Lahey.

Farmland of Local Importance- Margaret Christie report that she and John had reviewed aerial maps of several ag. Properties to determine their ag. status. Retired NRCS employee, Al Averill is working a project to update the ag activity on these farms.

Community Preservation Act (CPA) Committee report - No new activity to report at this meeting.

Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) Status Report-No new activity to report at this meeting.

New Business- No new activity to report at this meeting.

Adjournment: The meeting concluded and adjourned at 7:45

Respectfully Submitted

John Devine

Whately Agricultural Commission- Secretary