

# THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS



## Department of Agricultural Resources

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## **MEETING MINUTES** **MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**Wednesday, October 18, 2023**

10:00 AM Hybrid Meeting (in-person & via MS Teams)

**Board Members in Attendance:** Skip Vadnais, David Shepard, Lisa Colby, Peter Mezitt, Tina Bemis

**Virtual:** Pat Spence, Elizabeth Keen

**Absent:** Al Rose, Dawn Gates-Allen

**Staff:** Winton Pitcoff, Alisha Bouchard, Joanna Shields, Margaret Callanan, Rebecca Davidson, Taryn LaScola

**Public:** n/a

1. **Start / Call to Order:** At 10:19am Chair Vadnais called the board to order, a quorum was established. All votes must be taken by rollcall.
2. **6/21/23 Meeting Minutes:** Mr. Mezitt moved to approve the meeting minutes of June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023. The motion was seconded by Ms. Colby. Minutes were unanimously approved via rollcall vote.

### **New Business:**

#### 3. **Department Updates:**

- a. Update on invasive Spotted Lantern Fly (SLF) and Box Tree Moth (BTM), Director LaScola provided a presentation on SLF and BTM that will be made available to board members.

Discussion: Mr. Mezitt asked if SLF was out of control and Director LaScola confirmed then briefly explained the work MDAR is doing to try and address the ongoing situation. Members asked Director LaScola questions about the USDA's federal quarantine and what it means. Director LaScola provided as much information as possible to members however, many of the questions need to be addressed by USDA before the department starts putting messaging out to the public.

At 10:35am Ms. Keen dropped from the call.

Adjournment: Chair Vadnais quickly adjourned the meeting at 10:36am as the board no longer had a quorum.