

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS



Department of Agricultural Resources

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MEETING MINUTES
MASSACHUSETTS AGRITOURISM STUDY COMMISSION

Monday, October 18, 2021
Via Zoom

Board Members in Attendance: Chair John Lebeaux, Patti Kirwin on behalf of Senator Edward Kennedy, Brad Mitchell, Michael Moore, Nathan L'Etoile, Karen Schwalbe, Derek Dunlea on behalf of Rep. Fiola, Erin Williams, Keiko Orrall

Absent: Rep. Dykema, Sen. Rausch

Also in Attendance: Katelyn Parsons

MDAR Staff in attendance: Christine Smith, Ashley Randle, Julie Weiss, Mary Jordan, Phu Mai, Delia Delongchamp

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting started at 1:03 pm, with full remote participation.
2. **Approval of the minutes from the last meeting on September 27, 2021.**
Motion made by Derek Dunlea, seconded by Karen Schwalbe. Motion passed unanimously.
3. **Industry Updates.**
Brad Mitchell reported continuing issues with ambiguities in the building code and agritourism.
Chair Lebeaux reported that fair season had come to an end, with the last one being Westport the past weekend. Fair season was successful, noting that reserves were used up during 2020 when no fairs were held. He also reported that cranberry harvest was in full swing.
4. **Old Business**
None.
5. **New Business**
 - a. **Final Report Assignment Updates and Discussion**
Drafts are due by November 1.

Phu Mai reported that he had received some information from Rep. Fiola's office as well as from Brad Mitchell. He is also working on background for the report. Phu will receive and organize all the information.

Brad Mitchell reported that he had provided information regarding building codes but felt that there was some information that needed further discussion and final decision.

Nathan L'Etoile reported that he had some bullet points of information but also felt that it needs further group discussion.

Chair Lebeaux reminded members that they have a mandate to issue a report by year end.

Brad Mitchell added that they felt they needed guidance from DPH regarding food code and kitchens. Michael Moore reported that there should be further language ready by November 1. Erin Williams and Brad Mitchell both clarified that there is some confusion regarding catering. Michael Moore stated that residential kitchens guidance would cover catering as well.

b. Next Tour Location and Date

Phu Mai suggested tour on October 29 at 2 pm at the Brewery at Four Star Farms. Nathan L'Etoile would be the host and can highlight how to bring the public to a working farm.

The meeting will be a posted meeting open to the public and Nathan noted that the brewery opens at 4 pm after the meeting is over.

Chair Lebeaux noted that this would also serve as an opportunity to have further discussions that are needed. Ashley Randle said she would add that to the agenda and could send out the information needed for discussion in advance.

6. Next Meeting

Chair Lebeaux noted November 22 at 1 pm for the next meeting date.

Phu Mai suggested that additional subcommittee meetings might be helpful to work out any further details and offered to facilitate these if the members wanted.

Keiko Orrall asked how to incorporate public comment into the report. Ashley Randle stated that having a public hearing was discussed at a prior meeting and that if the drafts were in by November 1, a hearing could be held before Thanksgiving, leaving time for those comments to be incorporated for the final report due December 31.

7. Adjournment

Keiko Orrall made a motion for a vote to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Derek Dunlea. The vote to adjourn was unanimous. Meeting was adjourned at 1:23 pm.