

AGCOM GATHERING
Hancock Shaker Village, MA
DECEMBER 1, 2007

www.massagcom.org

TOWN & YEAR AGCOM ORGANIZED	PRESENTER	WHAT IS AGCOM DOING?	WHAT IS AGCOM PLANNING TO DO?	WHAT DOES AGCOM NEED HELP WITH?
Adams 2006	Joe Novak	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Education is the priority 2. Sponsored a seminar on wetlands and invited DEP circuit rider 3. Target Hunger Project – No. Berkshire County children with 3 acre garden plot 4. passed RTF but had to remove “fines” section 5. Made RTF Community signs and now installed on highways 6. 4 dairy farms in town 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Will start a cable TV show – monthly guest to speak on history of ag and ag 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Concerned that the state government rejected \$40,000 to reimburse towns for agricultural fairs
Belchertown 2006	Grace Atzima Co-chair and beef farmer	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Wanted some farmers on the AgCom but not all members are farmers 2. AgCom meets regularly and with an agenda 3. Three goals: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. AgCom is a voice for the farmers 2. AgCom works with other town boards 3. AgCom educates boards and residents in community 4. First project - BOH wanted a brochure on manure management including horse manure 5. Held a meeting of farmers and will do again 6. Developing a brochure 7. Had a guest speaker for education on CPA funds 8. Had MA Farm Bureau do a presentation about ag exemptions 9. Coordinated a community garden at NESFI 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Looking into certified shared use kitchen for local farmers – possibly renting existing space at reasonable rate – dealing with BOH 2. Exploring how CPA funds can be used for agriculture 	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10. Western MA Antique Tractor Assoc. – sponsored an event and donated garden equipment for the community garden and promoted local farm stands at the same event. 11. Review agricultural bylaws upon request – suggested adoption of same definition as MA definition for agriculture, recommended use of portable sawmill in residential area for temporary projects, and recommended expand areas for greenhouses so they are not required to get special permits 12. Building relationship with Board of Selectmen 		
Bernardston 2006		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Commission organized for 1.5 years 2. Prepared for RTF Bylaw at town meeting but met with opposition so warrant article not submitted 3. Concentrating on education now and will be present at Old Home Day 	1. Exploring a Farmers Market	
Egremont 2006		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Working on farm brochure 2. Passed RTF bylaw 		
Granby 2006		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Formed recently 2. Getting ideas 3. Open to working with Belchertown 		
Greenfield 2007	Kelly Coleman	1. AgCom has conducted 3 meeting to date	1. Planning survey and developing a farm map	
Great Barrington 2006	Sean Stanton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Passed RTF bylaw 2. AgCom is new 		
Huntington 2007		1. Working with other towns in Gateway School District on brochure and regional agricultural map (Russell, Montgomery,		

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		Blandford, Huntington, Chester, Worthington, Middlefield)		
Lanesborough 2006	Aimee Thayer	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. AgCom formed last year 2. Passed RTF bylaw 3. Doing an ag survey – took months to sort names from assessors office and decided to send it to those in RA areas and will distribute at post office – based on work done in Carver and Dartmouth. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sponsor rabies clinic 2. Working more closely with town boards 	
Lee 2006		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Formed in May 2. Writing RTF article for vote at Spring 2008 town meeting 3. Completed an ag survey 		
Middlefield 2005		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. AgCom formed 2.5 years ago and all members are farmers. 2. Passed RTF bylaw May of 2006 included homesteading and hobby farm thus very different that the state definition 3. Working on design for signage at AgFair 4. Held forum on National Animal ID Program 5. AgCom members are very active in fall and Spring, AgCom “dormant” in summer 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct more seminars 2. Working on a regional agricultural commission effort for inventory of ag 3. Lost 2 large farms this year and discussing how to protect farms. 4. Want to focus on education especially for nonfarmers moving into town 5. Planning to have NRCS come out to meet with farmers 6. Spring education forum – MA Woodland Cooperative 	
Montgomery 2006		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Passed RTF bylaw 2. Working with Gateway District AgComs to develop a joint brochure 3. Increased members from 3 to 5 4. Meet every 2nd Saturday each month 		
Orange 2007	Warren Rice	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. AgCom formed recently 2. First meeting is next week 3. RTF bylaw passed 		

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Plainfield 2006		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Passed RTF bylaw – includes homesteading, hobby farms, noncommercial farms 2. AgCom formed recently and has met twice 3. Held 2 brainstorming session regarding farm losses and how to protect what is left 4. Influx of people who do not understand ag 5. Want to focus on education 6. Invited NRCS to speak about programs 		
Sheffield 2006		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Passed RTF bylaw 2. Exploring CPA 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Planning local farms advertising campaign for spring 2008 2. Considering signage 	
Stockbridge 2007				