

**AGCOM GATHERING
MARLBOROUGH, MA
DECEMBER 8, 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?
ASHBY 2005	John Mickola	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Passed Right to Farm (RTF) bylaw 2. Developed RTF disclosure form for new home owners. 3. Started town farmer's market in 2006. 4. Surveyed town – 20% return 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Road by road survey of where farms are located in town. 2. Organize a Spring supper using local products and encourage farmers to participate. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Need to advertise existence, activities and successes of AgCom 2. Received \$300 budget from the town. 3. Agricultural education in the community and 4. Development of an effective complaint and dispute resolution process.
BARNSTABLE 2007	Leslie Spencer	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Newly formed 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide assistance to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cranberries • Aquaculture • Livestock 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gain knowledge of what other AgComs are doing, what services are available for assistance. 2. Need funds for advertising 3. Need operating funds and access to grants.
BARRE	Dave Petrovick	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Currently conducting RTF hearings for formal adoption at town meeting. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Revive our town's fair. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Need help inspiring and recruiting ambitious volunteers to do more work for special functions like the Barre Fair.
BERLIN				
BOLTON 2007	Joe Kovacs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Newly formed; we are working on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • getting organized, • setting our priorities for next year by soliciting input from town boards and farmers in town. 2. Passed RTF bylaw 3. Meeting with town boards, farmers and residents. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We have a long list which primarily focuses on two areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education of farmers and non-farmers • Promoting farmers in Bolton • Increasing agriculture's voice in the community. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Not sure yet; we need to prioritize our list then see where are weaknesses are. 2. We want to network with other towns to find out <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • what they are doing • how they're doing it • what issues they have 3. Considering a regional farmers market at the town fair.
BOXFORD 2005	Laura Grabski	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Passed RTF in 2006. 2. Because most of the regulatory boards in our Town were against our formation, we have spent considerable time mending fences and building bridges. 3. We have an advisory role with the ConCom concerning licensing of Town 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This spring we are going to have farm tours of several of our farms. 2. We are encouraging the development of a hybrid CSA. 3. We are working to improve the grange building and conduct educational programs. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish a State-wide Association for AgComs - support group (like MACC) organization can assist AgComs with training, review of bylaws and regulations and provide statewide advocacy and influence with legislature. 2. Need consistency within State as regards

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		<p>owned agricultural land as well as other land use issues.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> We are working on farm and forestry management plans We are working with the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals to update our farmstand bylaw to be in compliance with the State. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Continue our development of land and forestry management plans. Continue our development of better agricultural licensing for town owned land for farming. Develop a comprehensive education/activity based on a seasonal calendar. 	<p>zoning issues i.e. farmstand issues;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Addressing agritourism issues Board of Health regulations and the Right-to-Farm bylaw
DANVERS 2005				
DRACUT 2007	Robert Berube	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Newly formed in September of 2007. Passed RTF in April of 2007. 		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Agriculture in Master Plan. Working with Open Space, open space available for agricultural use.
DUNSTABLE 2006	Al Horton	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Passed AgCom and RTF in 2006 unanimous votes. Managing a farmer market. Assisting other towns starting AgComs 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Running education programs for farmers and town residents. Working with ConCom to free up some land recently purchased land for agricultural use. Run seminars for town residents on composting and commodity growing. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Running education programs and getting help.
FRAMINGHAM 2007	George Harrington	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Passed AgCom and RTF in spring of 2007. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Inventorying existing farmland. Dealing with how to handle traffic during travel between farms. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Need ideas on how to stop traffic from passing farm equipment dangerously on very narrow roads. (signage, police, education, what's been done in the past that works?) Cars passing farm equipment on dangerous curves in roads.
GRAFTON	Elizabeth Anderson-Cobb	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Forming an Ad-Hoc, planning on meeting with BOS 		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Planning, development, public relations, developing rapport with neighbors and concerned citizens. Develop local access to agricultural venues.
GROTON 2007	George Moore	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Passed RTF in 2006 Exploring Ag in the Classroom. Formulating plans for coming year. Developing notification for realtors re: RTF and disclosure, for distribution to buyers re ag-friendly town. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Education on Farming in and around wetlands. Defining Ag vs. commercial We have brought info on Ag. In the Classroom to 2 schools and are awaiting responses. We have also talked about a farm pen 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Legal Issues concerning farms Building regulations pertaining to agriculture.

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			house. 5. Looking at scholarships.	
HAMILTON 2005				
HARDWICK 2005				
HARVARD 2006				
HOLLISTON 2005	Donna Kramer	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Organized AgCom and passed RTF in 2005. 2. Flyers and signage posted on entry roads into town advertising farm-friendly town. 3. Revived greenhouse at high school 4. Surveyed farms then revived town "Holliston farm day." 5. Raised funds via calendar sales. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mass Buy local Farm to School Project, City Sprouts. 2. Container flower gardens at Holliston High School. 3. Working on Holliston Net News for farms to advertise weekly; AgCom budget provides some \$ support. 4. Working with a farm which is for sale which might be developed. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continuing to educate AgCom members and gain knowledge and understanding of agricultural issues, rules, regs, services and procedures 2. How to keep members on the AgCom.
HUBBARDSTON 2006				
IPSWICH 2006				
LITTLETON 2007	Janet Dutcher	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Newly formed 2. Have not set our agenda yet 3. Organizing, reviewing open meeting laws, developing agenda. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Developing an AgCom work plan 2. Reaching out to farmers. Need their input into plan and priorities. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mission Statement development. 2. How to develop a work plan. 3. Educating the community about the value of agriculture.
MARSHFIELD 2007	Alden Johnson	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Board of Selectmen appointed and ag committee in 2006 and the AgCom was passed via town meeting in 2007. 2. Passed RTF in 2007. 3. Inventoried 61A farms, open space, town owned lands. 4. Developed best practices for horse keeping in anticipation of BOH regs. 5. Printed RTF brochure. 		
MONTGOMERY 2006	Cindy Camp			

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NEWTON 2005	Louise Bruyn	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Newton Farm Commission organized in 2005. 2. Three years ago, Newton bought the Angino farm with CPA funds in order to keep the 2 1/2 acre land in food production. It was the last farm in Newton. 3. The City of Newton set up a Newton Farm Commission which has set policies, selected the group to run the farm, (which in turn hired the farmer), and provides general oversight to the group. 4. We meet monthly to hear their reports on progress and financial status, and we interact with other city agencies on their behalf. 5. Have a 60-share CSA program, part goes to food pantries & farmer's markets. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We are helping to think through and facilitate the remodeling of the barn to make it appropriate for three or four season use as a farm and environmental education location for school children and adults leading to expansion of gardens for food production for the city. 2. We are also trying to be helpful in raising money to pay for the needed structural repairs for the house and barn. 3. We hope to make the farm a demonstration place for sustainable living and agriculture. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. At this point we are interested in becoming more informed about the services or information service providers and other AgComs offer. 2. We want to be part of a larger community that educates and advocates for local food production. 3. We need information on fund raising to sustain the farm . 4. We need to know how to recruit and keeping volunteers.
OAKHAM 2007	Edwina	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Organized in 2007. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Education of new residences about the value of agriculture. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Need help working with the Planning Board and moving RTF warrant article to and through town Meeting. 2. Town is zoned Agriculture with one tax rate. How does RTF affect that?
PAXTON 2007	Cindy Cheever	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Passed AgCom 		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Getting BOS to appoint members
PEPPERELL 2006				
PRINCETON 2006				
ROWLEY 2005				
RUTLAND 2006	Kathy Clark	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Passed AgCom and RTF at Special Town Meeting. 2. AgCom goal: Promote agricultural awareness and appreciation. 3. Entered decorated tractors in July 4th parade. 4. Participated in annual chowder festival. 5. Listed on town website. 6. Donated meal to needy family. 7. Participated in Historical Society's annual 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue some of same activities. 2. Develop brochure with town farms and products. 3. Hold farm tour day. 4. Create farm fair day. 5. Create bookmarks of town farm facts to distribute at the library. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Grant and revenue sources. 2. Dispute mediation. 3. Communication w/state and local agencies. 4. Education

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		festival of Christmas trees by decorating an "AgCom tree" 8. Helped people to put farms in APR 9.		
STERLING 1982/2007	Michael Pineo	1. Just getting organized.	1. Get AgCom organized after BOS makes member appointments (will occur in next few weeks). 2. Education Farmers	1. Getting the Selectboard to appoint the AgCom 2. Establishing a Voice for agriculture in the community.
STOW 2006	Dwight Sipler	1. Passed AgCom and RTF in 2006. 2. Trying to preserve farmland and make farms more viable. 3. Establishing Agricultural Preservation Fund. 4. Exercising Town's First Right of First Refusal on Chapter 61A lands. 5. Informational pieces. 6. Re-wrote ag part of sign bylaw. 7. Tractor parade & display at annual town festival.	1. Development of AgCom website, separate from the town. 2. Assisting in 1 APR. 3. Create an ag educational pamphlet . 4. Publicity - built own website but trying to get town to link to it	1. Time, members and volunteers, and fewer things to do.
STURBRIDGE 2007		1. Newly formed in 2007		
SUDBURY 2005	Laura Abrams	1. Developed programs for Mass Ag in the classrooms for K-10, including lesson plans and identified careers in agriculture. 2. Looking at zoning issues and Compatibility with ag. 3. Developing RTF article. 4. Working with Grange for farmer's market. 5. Entered tractors in July 4 th parade 6. Ag booth at town fair.		1. Rail Trail - How does it affect abutting farms? Trespass issues? a. Inventorying farms with issues with Rail Trail Need to understand facts about impact of rail trails on abutting farms and farmland.
TEMPLETON 2006				
TOPSFIELD 2005				
WEST BROOKFIELD 2005				
WESTFORD 2005				

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WESTON 2006	Julie Hyde	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Passed AgCom and RTF in 2006. 2. AgCom serves as advisors to BOS regarding licensing or town owned land. 3. Working on agricultural brochure (ag education and awareness). 4. Prepared statement on Weston town farm to go with tax bills. 5. Survey of Ag Land in town. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. “Symposium” on Responsible landscaping, i.e. water, pesticides, etc. 2. Develop Best Management Practices for manure management. 3. Town policy on pesticide use with BOH 4. Inventory of open space 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sustainable Ag production. 2. Agricultural preservation. 3. Developing and encouraging new farmers.