

**Harrisville Planning Board**  
**Minutes**  
**January 13, 2011**  
**Snow date, rescheduled from 1/12/11**

**Members Present:** Sherry Sims, Anne Havill, Ned Hulbert, Charles Michal occasionally

**Members Absent:** Noel Greiner, Bob Sturgis, Jay Jacobs

**Members of the Public Present:** Phil & Kathy Miner, Deb Abbott

Mrs. Sims called to the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

**Attendance and Voting Members:**

Mrs. Sims introduced the Board and said that the voting members are herself, Anne Havill and Ned Hulbert

**Agenda:**

The agenda was approved with the addition of “signing Miner plat” under Administrative and “Agricultural Commission” under New Business.

**Minutes of Previous Meetings:**

The minutes of the December 8, 2010 meeting were unanimously approved as distributed.

**New Business:**

**Agricultural Commission:**

The Agricultural Committee that was formed at the Harrisville 2020 weekend is submitting a petition for a Warrant Article at the March 8, 2011 Town Meeting to create an Agricultural Commission in Harrisville. The purpose of this commission, which is an advisory not regulatory body, is “to protect agricultural lands, preserve rural character, provide a voice for farmers, encourage agriculture-based businesses and activities, and provide educational opportunities for home gardeners”. The group is hoping that the Planning Board will endorse this effort. Deb Abbott was helpful in giving further explanation about the proposed commission. In discussion, Mrs. Havill commented that the goals for the proposed Agricultural Commission are essentially the same as the goals articulated by the attendees of Harrisville 2020. The purpose of the commission is similar to what the Planning Board is aiming for in land use. Mr. Hulbert suggested that it is a good thing for people to take some responsibility in thinking about land use issues; also he feels that this commission could be helpful in advising the Planning Board on the land use section of the new Master Plan. Mrs. Sims feels that anything that encourages local agriculture is a very good thing. The attending Board members were unanimous in their approval of this petition.

**Old Business:**

**Report on conversation with Lisa Murphy of SWRPC**

Mrs. Sims distributed notes of a meeting she had with Lisa Murphy on December 29. There was not much discussion since so few members were present but there was

