1st Meeting of the Mayor's Urban Agriculture Working Group 11.9.2010

I. Introductions

II. Goals & Objectives

5 – 7 minutes

III. Role of Task Force

5-7 minutes

IV. Rezoning Strategy - Two Phases

10 minutes

- a. Phase I DND parcel disposition and rezoning
- b. Phase II Citywide Rezoning
- c. Schedule for Phase I
- d. Neighborhood Meeting: Tuesday, November 16, 6:30 p.m.@ Erie Ellington Community Center, 31 Erie Street, Dorchester
- V. Draft Urban Agriculture Open Space Subdistrict language

15 minutes

VI. Site Management and Operations Issues

60 minutes

VII. Other

BRA Project Website

For project updates, schedules, and documents, visit the BRA web page for Rezoning for Urban Agriculture @ http://miniurl.com/BRARezoneUrbanAgriculture/

Attachments:

- List of Urban Agriculture Working Group Members
- Goals and Objectives
- Draft Proposed Zoning Code Amendment
- Schedule for Rezoning, Phase I
- Maps: DND Disposition Parcels in Relation to Existing Zoning Districts
- List of Site Management and Operations Issues for Discussion

	MAYOR'S URBAN	AGRICULTURE W	ORKING GROUP, FALL 2010
Greeting	Name	Title	Organization
Farm Advo	ocates		
Ms.	Danielle Andrews		The Food Project
Mr.	Glynn Lloyd		City Growers / City Fresh Foods, Inc.
Mr.	Don Wiest		Boston Public Market Association
Ms.	Alice Leung		Top Sprouts
Business I	nterests		
Mr.	David Begelfer	CEO	NAIOP Massachusetts
Ms.	Sue Sullivan	Executive Director	Newmarket Business Association
Mr.	Marco Suarez	Chef	Ledge Kitchen & Drinks in Dorchester
Ms.	Melissa Kogut		Chefs Collaborative
Neighborh	ood Leaders		
Mr.	Gareth Kinkead		Colorado Street Neighborhood Group (Mattapan)
Mr.	Bruce Bickerstaff		Roxbury YMCA, Roxbury Trust Fund Committee (Roxbury)
Mr.	David Warner	Founder	City Feed and Supply (Jamaica Plain)
Ms.	Rosanne Foley	Site Cordinator	SCI Dorchester @ DotWell (Dorchester)
Mr.	Camilo Hernandez		Piers Park Sailing
Other Adv	ocates & Experts		
Mr.	Larry Spang	Associate Principal	Arrowstreet Inc
Ms.	Nina Mukherji	Consultant	Boston Park Advocates
Mr.	Bob Ritchie	General Counsel	Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources
Dr.	Judith Layzer	Associate Professor of Environmental Policy	Department of Urban Studies and Planning, MIT

CIYT OF BOSTON URBAN AGRICULTURE INITIATIVE

As of 11.9.2010

Goals & Objectives

Mayor Thomas M. Menino and the City of Boston seek to establish an environment in which all of its citizens have direct access to locally produced fresh food, the ability to produce food for themselves, and access to education and knowledge about healthy eating.

Objectives for the Mayor's Urban Agriculture Initiative include:

- 1. Increase access to affordable and healthy food, particularly in those communities that are currently underserved.
- Promote greater economic opportunity and self-sufficiency, including increasing the capacity of Boston residents and business to grow and distribute local, healthy food;
- 3. Increase education and knowledge around healthy eating and food production, particularly among youth.
- 4. Increase partnerships with, and/or between, local and regional food producers
- 5. Increase healthy food supplies to local schools, organizations, institutions and corner stores.

DRAFT PROPOSED ZONING CODE AMENDMENT

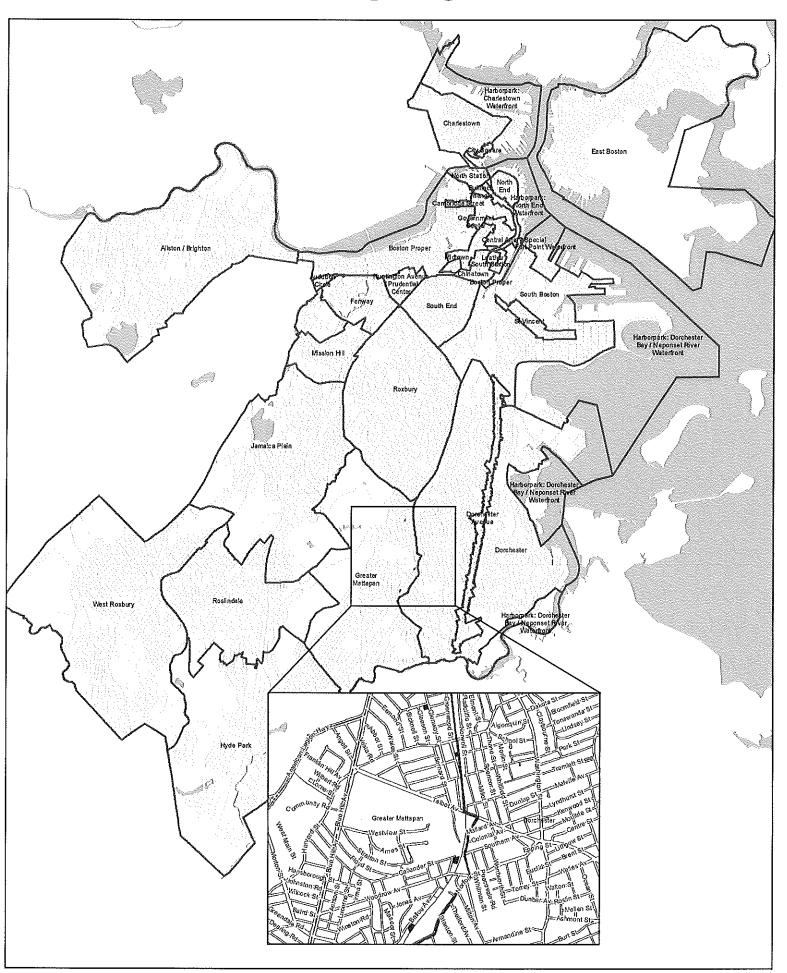
As of 11.8.2010

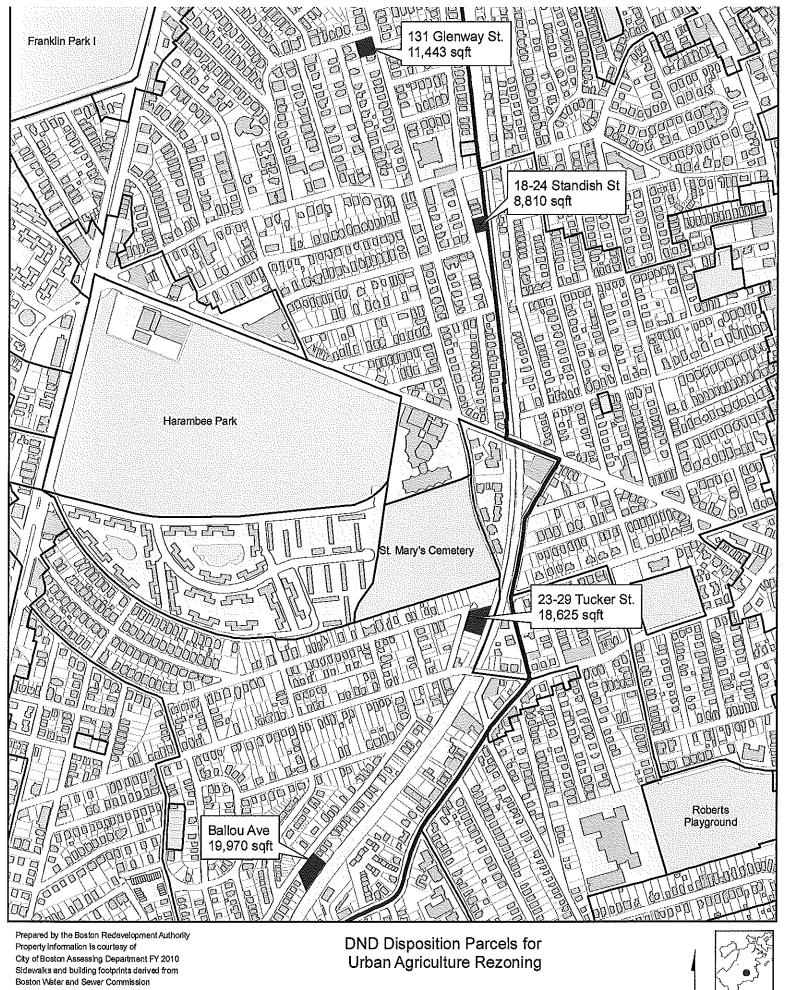
The following draft language would be added to Article 33 ("Open Space Subdistricts") of the Boston Zoning Code to create a new Urban Agriculture Open Space Subdistrict:

Section 33-17. Urban Agriculture Open Space Subdistrict. Urban Agriculture Open Space Subdistricts shall consist of Vacant Public Land appropriate for and limited to: a) the cultivation of plants, herbs, fruits, flowers, or vegetables, including the cultivation and tillage of soil and the production, cultivation, growing and harvesting of any agricultural, floricultural or horticultural commodity; and b) composting (the accelerated biodegradation and stabilization of organic material under controlled conditions for beneficial garden use) only of materials produced on site. The cultivation of any and all edible produce shall comply with all applicable federal, State and City requirements.

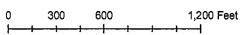
The raising of small animals, including and limited to chickens, rabbits, ducks, turkeys, small goats, geese, pigeons, and/or beekeeping (the maintenance of one or more hives of honeybees in order to collect honey and beeswax or for the purpose of pollinating crops) shall require a conditional use permit from the Board of Appeals in accordance with the provisions of Article 6. The raising of small animals shall comply with all applicable federal, State, and City requirements.

Boston Zoning Neighborhoods





1994 digital orthophoto project, Building footprints updated in 2008





SITE MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

- 1. Minimum annual lease payment per property: \$1,200.00
- 2. Season extending structures, visual impacts, and screening
- 3. Use of mechanical equipment
- 4. Chemicals and pesticides
- 5. Safe soil practices (soil testing)
- 6. Waste management (trash collection)
- 7. Impacts on abutting properties
- 8. Irrigation system requirement; irrigation and runoff plan
- 9. Traffic and parking
- 10. Noise and odor



Meeting #2 of The Mayor's Urban Agriculture Working Group October 27, 2011

- I. Welcome & Introductions
- II. Status of Pilot Urban Agriculture Project in South

 Dorchester

20 minutes

III. Launch of Phase II: Citywide Rezoning

45 - 60 minutes

- a. Citywide Approach to Rezoning
- b. Scope of Work/Schedule
- c. Public Outreach Strategy
- d. Possible use of Working Group subcommittees
- e. Citywide kick off Meeting & possible dates/locations
- IV. Regular Working Group meeting day and time; next meeting
- V. Other Issues

Handouts:

- Phase II Citywide Rezoning Scope of Work
- Phase II Schedule

BRA Project Website



Meeting #3 of The Mayor's Urban Agriculture Working Group January 5, 2012

I. Welcome & Introduction of New Working Group Members
 II. Status of Pilot Urban Agriculture Project in South

 Dorchester
 III. Planning & Preparation for Kickoff and Visioning Meeting
 45 - 60 minutes

- Review of Meeting Flyer
- Discussion of Meeting Agenda
- Open House: Information Tables
- Breakout Groups: Questions
- Publicity and Outreach
- Working Group member participation

IV. Soil Safety: Module 1 PreviewV. Public Comment15 minutes15 minutes

VI. Next Meeting/Regular Meeting Time

VII. Other

Handouts:

- Draft Flyer for Kickoff and Visioning Public Meeting
- Open House Information Tables Preliminary List

BRA Project Website



Meeting #5 of The Mayor's Urban Agriculture Working Group February 2, 2012 City Hall, 9th Floor, BRA Board Room

l.	Welcome & Introduction of New Working Group Members	5 minutes
II.	De-Briefing from January 30 th Kickoff and Visioning Meeting	15 minutes
ш	Discussion of Proliminary Zoning Percommendations concerning	

- III. Discussion of Preliminary Zoning Recommendations concerning
 - Module #1:
 - a. Soil Safety
 - b. Composting
 - c. Fertilizers & Pesticides

60 minutes

- IV. Public Comment 15 minutes
- V. Next Meeting
- VI. Other

Handouts:

Memorandum on Soil Safety, Composting & Pesticides

BRA Project Website



VII.

VIII.

Other

Meeting #5
Mayor's Urban Agriculture Working Group
March 8, 2012
8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
City Hall, 9th Floor, BRA Board Room

Next Meeting: Revisiting of Date & Time

I.	Review and Discussion of Kickoff and Visioning Meeting Public Comments	15 minutes
II.	Discussion of How Content or Process of Citywide Urban Agriculture Rezoning Initiative Might be Modified Based on Public Comments Received	15 minutes
III.	Discussion of <i>Draft</i> Working Group Mission Statement	20 minutes
IV.	Continued Discussion of Module 1	
	a. Soil Safety (Thomas Plant, BPHC)	15 minutes
V.	Discussion of Module 2: Growing of Produce; Structures	
	a. Definitionsb. Potential Thresholds for Different Sizes of Urban Farmsc. Dimensional Regulations for Structuresd. Other	
VI.	Public Comment	15 minutes

Handouts:

- A. Kickoff and Visioning Meeting Public Comments *Transcribed*
- B. Summary of Public Comments from Kickoff and Visioning Meeting
- C. Draft Working Group Mission Statement
- D. Memorandum for Module 2: Growing of Produce; Structures

BRA Project Website



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Meeting #6
Mayor's Urban Agriculture Working Group
April 11, 2012
8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
City Hall, 9th Floor, BRA Board Room

II.	Discussion of Supplemental Recommendations Concerning Module 2: Growing of Produce; Farm Structures	30 minutes
III.	Presentation and Discussion Regarding Possible Concepts For Rooftop Agriculture (Module 3)	30 minutes

Discussion of Revised Mission and Vision Statement

IV. Public Comment 15 minutes

V. Other

Handouts:

- A. Revised Draft Mission and Vision Statement
- **B.** Supplemental Discussion and Recommendations Concerning **Module 2: Produce; Farm Structures**

15 minutes

C. Background Research and Preliminary Concepts for **Module 3: Rooftop Agriculture**

BRA Project Website



DRAFT AGENDA

Meeting #7
Mayor's Urban Agriculture Working Group
May 3, 2012
8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
City Hall, 9th Floor, BRA Board Room

l.	Discussion of Draft Mission and Vision Statement	10 minutes
1.	(Refer to Handout A)	10 minutes
II.	Continuation of Community Gardens Discussion from Module 2 (Refer to Handout B)	10 minutes
III.	Discussion of Modified Definitions related to Module 2: Growing of Produce & Accessory Farm Structures (Refer to Handout B)	30 minutes
IV.	Oral update on status of Soil Safety recommendations (Module 1), Composting recommendations (Module 1), and	
	Rooftop Agriculture recommendations (Module 3)	20 minutes
V.	Project Schedule Update	10 minutes
VI.	Public Comment	15 minutes

Handouts:

Other

- A. Draft Vision & Mission Statement
- B. Supplemental Memo II, Module 2: Growing Produce & Accessory Structures.

BRA Project Website

VII.



Meeting #8
Mayor's Urban Agriculture Working Group
June 7, 2012
8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
City Hall, 9th Floor, BRA Board Room

 Presentation and Discussion of Draft Rooftop Agriculture Zoning Recommendations (Module 3 cont'd) (Refer to Handout A)

30 minutes

II. Presentation and Discussion of Draft Zoning Recommendations for Comprehensive Farm Review (Modules 2 and 3 cont'd) (Refer to Handout B)

30 minutes

III. Update on Composting; Presentation and Discussion of Conceptual Zoning Recommendations for Composting (Module 1 cont'd) (Refer to Handout C)

30 minutes

IV. Introduction to Hydroponics and Aquaculture and Related Zoning (Module 4)

15 minutes

V. Public Comment

15 minutes

VI. Other

Handouts:

- A. Draft Rooftop Agriculture Zoning Recommendations (forthcoming)
- B. Draft Zoning Recommendations for Comprehensive Farm Review (forthcoming)
- C. Conceptual Zoning Recommendations for Composting (forthcoming)

BRA Project Website



Meeting #9
Mayor's Urban Agriculture Working Group
July 12, 2012
8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
City Hall, 9th Floor, BRA Board Room, Room 900

I. Format for Public Comment at Working Group Meetings 10 minutes

II. Presentation and Discussion of Draft Zoning Recommendations forAquaculture, Aquaponics and Hydroponics (Refer to Handout A)30 minutes

III. Presentation and Discussion of Draft Zoning Recommendations for

Keeping of Hens and Beekeeping (Refer to Handout B) 60 minutes

IV. Public Comment 20 minutes

- V. Next Steps
- VI. Other

Handouts:

- A. Memorandum and Recommendations Concerning Aquaculture, Aquaponics and Hydroponics
- B. Memorandum and Recommendations Concerning Keeping of Hens and Beekeeping

BRA Project Website



Meeting #10
Mayor's Urban Agriculture Working Group
September 6, 2012
8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
City Hall, 9th Floor, BRA Board Room, Room 900

l.	Continued discussion of Comprehensive Farm Review (Module 2)	10 minutes
II.	Continued discussion of Accessory Keeping of Hens (Module 5)	20 minutes
III.	Continued discussion of Accessory Keeping of Bees (Module 5)	20 minutes
IV.	Presentation and Discussion of Farmers Markets, Winter Markets, Farmstands and On Site Sales (Module 6)	30 minutes
V.	Next Steps	
VI.	Public Comment*	10 minutes

*To facilitate communication between the public and Working Group members, public comment on agendized topics will be taken throughout the course of the meeting.

Written Materials:

- A. Revised draft zoning language for Comprehensive Farm Review
- B. Revised draft zoning language for Accessory Keeping of Hens
- C. Revised draft zoning language for Accessory Keeping of Bees
- D. Memorandum re Farmers Markets, Farmstands and On Site Sales

BRA Project Website



Meeting #12
Mayor's Urban Agriculture Working Group
November 1, 2012
8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
City Hall, 9th Floor, BRA Board Room, Room 900

l.	Revised Zoning and Permitting Regulations related to Beekeeping (Module 2)	20 minutes
II.	Update on Zoning Recommendations related to Rooftop Composting (Module 3)	20 minutes
III.	Update on Soil Safety Protocol (Module 1)	10 minutes
IV.	Continued Discussion of Farm Review Thresholds and Comprehensive Farm Review (Module 2)	20 minutes
V.	Schedule and Process for Working Group Review of Draft Article 89, Urban Agriculture Facilities	15 minutes
VI.	Next Steps	5 minutes

Written Materials forthcoming. Any written materials will be posted on the project web page (see link below) and mailed to our list of interested persons prior to the Working Group meeting

BRA Project Website



Meeting #12
Mayor's Urban Agriculture Working Group
November 1, 2012
8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
City Hall, 9th Floor, BRA Board Room, Room 900

I.	Revised Zoning and Permitting Regulations related to Beekeeping (Module 2)	20 minutes
II.	Update on Zoning Recommendations related to Rooftop Composting (Module 3)	20 minutes
III.	Update on Soil Safety Protocol (Module 1)	10 minutes
IV.	Continued Discussion of Farm Review Thresholds and <i>Comprehensive</i> Farm Review (Module 2)	20 minutes
V.	Schedule and Process for Working Group Review of Draft Zoning Code Article 89, "Urban Agriculture"	10 minutes
VI.	Next Steps	5 minutes

Written Materials forthcoming. Any written materials will be posted on the project web page (see link below) and mailed to our list of interested persons prior to the Working Group meeting

BRA Project Website



Meeting #13
Mayor's Urban Agriculture Working Group
January 3, 2012
8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
City Hall, 9th Floor, BRA Board Room, Room 900

I. R	Review/discussion of Draft Zoning Code Article 89*	90 minutes
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II. Update on Rooftop Composting Recommendations 5 minutes

III. Preparation for Neighborhood Meetings on Draft Article 89 10 minutes

IV. Public comment 10 minutes

V. Next Steps 5 minutes

*Draft Article 89 is posted on the project web page (see link below) and was mailed to the BRA's list of interested persons prior to the Working Group meeting.

BRA Project Website



Meeting #14
Mayor's Urban Agriculture Working Group (WG)
February 7, 2013
8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
City Hall, 9th Floor, BRA Board Room, Room 900

l.	Presentation & Discussion Re: Draft Soil Safety Protocol, by Boston Public Health Commission	30 minutes
II.	Continued Presentation and Discussion of Draft Article 89 (including responses to questions from January 3rd WG meeting)	50 minutes
III.	Update Rooftop Farming, Rooftop Composting & Related Fire Safety Issues	10 minutes
IV.	Preparation for Neighborhood Meetings on Draft Article 89	15 minutes
V.	Public comment	15 minutes
VI.	Next Steps	

*Draft Article 89 is posted on the project web page (see link below) and was mailed to the BRA's list of interested persons prior to the January 3, 2012 Working Group meeting.

BRA Project Website



Meeting #15
Mayor's Urban Agriculture Working Group (WG)
March 7, 2013
8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
City Hall, 9th Floor, BRA Board Room, Room 900

I. Continue and finalize presentation and Discussion of Draft Article 89.
 30 minutes
 Outstanding presentation items include:

- Keeping of Hens and Bees
- Aquaculture, Hydroponics & Aquaponics
- Farmers Markets & Farm Stands

II.	Cumulative changes to Draft Article 89 since 12.28.12 version	10 minutes
III.	Definition Changes: "Urban Agriculture" (revised) & "Farm Area" (new)	10 minutes
IV.	Response to questions 2/7 Mayor's Working Group meeting 1. Role of Boston Water & Sewer Commission: likely process and estimated costs	20 minutes
V.	Update and discussion re: Neighborhood Meetings in spring	20 minutes
VI.	Public comment	15 minutes

VII. Next Steps

*Draft Article 89 is posted on the project web page (see link below) and was mailed to the BRA's list of interested persons prior to the January 3, 2012 Working Group meeting. Draft Soil Safety Protocol are also posted on the project web page.

BRA Project Website



Meeting #16
Mayor's Urban Agriculture Working Group (WG)
April 11, 2013
8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
City Hall, 9th Floor, BRA Board Room, Room 900

- I. Update on **Soil Safety Protocol** for Urban Farms
- II. Update on Roof Level Farming and Fire Safety
- III. Proposed **Modification of Definition of Community Gardens** to Exclude community gardens in the Community Garden Open Space (OS-CG) Zoning Subdistrict
- IV. Wrap Up Discussion of the **Role of Boston Water and Sewer Commission** in Reviewing Urban Farm Plans
- V. Discussion of Expanding Article 89 to More Explicitly Include Non Commercial Farming
- VI. Presentation of New Language re General Parameters for Composting on Roof Level Farms
- VII. Discussion re Possible Addition of Language to Article 89 Concerning Commercial Keeping of Hens
- VIII. Update on Schedule and Media Materials for Neighborhood Meetings
- IX. Public Comment

*Draft Article 89 is posted on the project web page (see link below) and was mailed to the BRA's list of interested persons prior to the January 3, 2012 Working Group meeting.

BRA Project Website



Meeting #17
Mayor's Urban Agriculture Working Group (WG)
May 9, 2013
8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
City Hall, 9th Floor, BRA Board Room, Room 900

- I. Final Soil Safety Protocol for Urban Farms
- II. Recommendations for Roof Level Farms and Fire Safety
- III. Final Changes to draft Article 89 prior to neighborhood meetings, including revised definitions to re: role of commercial farming
- IV. Update and Discussion re: Schedule, Outreach Materials and
 PowerPoint Presentation for Neighborhood Meetings on draft Article 89
- V. Public Comment

BRA Project Website

For project updates, schedules, and documents, visit the BRA web page for Rezoning for Urban Agriculture @ http://tinyurl.com/BRARezoneUrbanAgriculture/

Project Contacts

Tad Read <u>john.read.bra@cityofboston.gov</u> and (617) 918-4264 Marie Mercurio <u>marie.mercurio.bra@cityofboston.gov</u> and (617) 918-4352 Please email us to be included in our email notification list



Meeting #18
Mayor's Urban Agriculture Working Group (WG)
September 5, 2013
8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
City Hall, 9th Floor, BRA Board Room, Room 900

I.	Report on Neighborhood Meetings, Public Comment, and Response to Comments	5 min

II. Report on "Introduction to Article 89" Document 5 min

III. Report on Permitting Guide 5 min

IV. Revised Soil Safety Protocol 5 min

V. Changes to Article 89*

1 hr & 15 min

- 1. Height of Farm Structures (Section 89-4)
- 2. Review thresholds for farm structures, including greenhouses and freight containers (Section 89-4)
- 3. CFR Thresholds for Expanded Farms (Section 89-6)
- 4. Signage (Section 89-4)
- 5. Comprehensive Farm Review: Other Changes (CFR, Section 89-6)

-Changes to Design Guidelines (89-6)

- 6. Composting (Section 89-8)
- 7. Freight Containers (Section 89-11)
- 8. Farmers Markets and Farms Stands (Section 89-2)
- 9. Roof Level Beekeeping (Section 89-10)

VI. Public Comment 20 min

VII. Next Steps 5 min

*If there is insufficient time on September 5 to discuss all of the agenda items, an additional meeting will be held on Thursday, September 19 at the same time of day and location to continue the discussion.

HANDOUTS**:

Attachment A – Revised Soil Safety Protocol

Attachment B - Matrix Summarizing Public Comments, Response to Comments, and Changes to Article 89

Attachment C – September 2013 Revised Version of Article 89, with redlining to show changes since May 2013 version **All of the above documents are posted on the project web page (see link below) and was mailed to the BRA's list of interested persons prior to the September 5, 2013 Working Group meeting.

BRA Project Website