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**ENFIELD AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2016**

A Regular Meeting of the Enfield Agricultural Commission was called to order by Chair Karen LaPlante in the Enfield Town Hall, 820 Enfield Street, Enfield, Connecticut on Tuesday, February 9, 2016 @ 8:40 PM.

ROLL CALL

Secretary Kathy Vose took the roll.

Present were Commissioner McGuire, Chair LaPlante, Commissioner Cote, Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall, Commissioner Vose, and Commissioner Kneiss.

Also present: Karen Timpone – Recording secretary – Ginny Higley from the Planning Office - Staff liaison for this meeting.

Absent – Commissioner Dynia, Commissioner Szewczak.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: Minutes of November 10, 2015 – Motion made by Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall to approve minutes, seconded by Commissioner McGuire – No discussion. Approval of minutes 5/0/1, Commissioner Kneiss abstained. Minutes of December 8, 2015 – Motion made by Commissioner Vose to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Kneiss – No discussion – Approval of minutes 6/0/0. No minutes for January 2016 as the meeting was cancelled due to weather.

Review and Possible Approval of By-Laws:

The revised By-Laws have been out for more than a month from revisions done in December. Chair LaPlante asked for comments. Commissioner Cote – Article II Paragraph – Discussion at the last meeting. His question is: Are the farms ranked only when they come up for possible purchase or are all farms ranked? Commissioner McGuire stated that the way it is worded it is not specific for farms looking to enter into farmland preservation, it is worded that every farm will be ranked. EAC checked the Resolution from the Town Council. Part of the Resolution - Item II - Now therefore be it resolved that the Enfield Town Council does hereby take the following steps related to Farmland Preservation appoints the ECC to be the EAC for the Town of Enfield and directs the EAC to develop an inventory of local farmland resources and provide for the prioritization of these resources using a criteria scoring or ranking system and it establishes a new fund, etc. It directs the EAC to take the necessary steps to become a pre-qualified community in the DOA Community Farms Preservation Program. So ranking all farms is in the By-Laws, however different ranking criteria can be used for different types of farms.

Commissioner Cote asked that the agenda for the next EAC meeting have the criteria for ranking all farmland resources.

Commissioner McGuire stated that there is a State Viability Grant for Municipalities – Some towns have received that grant and used that money to develop their farm resources. He suggested that the EAC look

into how they spent that money and who they hired to do that job. There is possibly an entity out there that can do the job for the grant money. The EAC will look to see how other towns have done this – possibly asking Ellington and Suffield.

Motion to approve the By-Laws for the Enfield Agriculture Commission was made by Commissioner Cote, seconded by Commissioner Vose - No further discussion – Passed unanimously.

Farms and Farmland Preservation – The Community Farmland Preservation Program:

Commissioner McGuire stated that once we get a permanent Town Manager or a designee, EAC should do a presentation.

Chair LaPlante suggested that a letter be sent to Town Council to ask for funding for this upcoming budget year.

Commissioner Kneiss suggested maybe a part-time job or college intern can help out.

Commissioner Cote suggested that we start out with a new list of all farms in Enfield. The map is online at UCONN. Ginny Higley said that if they find the right map on the UCONN site, the planning/engineering department can print out a full colored map of all different soil types.

Correspondence All Commissioners:

Chair LaPlante reported - 2012 Addition of Planning for Agriculture - A guide for Connecticut municipalities – A publication of the American Farmland Trust and The Connecticut Conference and Municipalities with a letter attached from the USDA congratulating Enfield for having the community soils officially recognized and designated as local important farmland soils.

Next meeting is Tuesday, March 8, 2016 following the ECC meeting -

Motion was made by Commissioner Cote to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall – No discussion – Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM