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**ENFIELD AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 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 March 8, 2016 @ 7:07 PM.

ROLL CALL

Secretary Kathy Vose took the roll.

Present were Commissioner McGuire, Chair LaPlante, Commissioner Dynia, Commissioner Vose, Commissioner Kneiss (8 pm) and Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall .

Also present: Karen Timpone – Recording secretary and Kim Holden from staff.

Absent –Commissioner Cote and Commissioner Szewczak.

PUBLIC INPUT – None.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: Minutes of February 16, 2016 – Motion made by Commissioner Vose to approve minutes, seconded by Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall – No discussion. Approval of minutes 5/0/1 Commissioner Dynia abstained.

Chair LaPlante gave some information about the EAC to the new staff liaison, Kim Holden. Kim will see that the By-Laws that were passed by the EAC get to the Town Clerk's office.

Farms and Farmland Preservation – Chair LaPlante got a list from Della of everything in 490. List is by name and one list is by acreage. The concentration of farms for the Community Farmland Preservation are generally less than 35 acres. Anything bigger than that can go directly through the State Farmland Preservation. 134 properties are 490 in Enfield. Some of them are not being farmed, some are just open space and forestry. Commissioner McGuire stated that we have to get more funding before any farms can be approached by EAC to possibly go into the Community Farmland Preservation Program. The account is established and has \$25,000. The EAC has decided that each member will rank a few of the farms on the list to see how the criteria works. Chair LaPlante will get the updated criteria sheet to everyone. The EAC talked about sending letters to certain 490 owners to see if they would be interested in preserving the property. The EAC picked five farms to rank with the current criteria as a test, and will report back at the next meeting. Kim can get the soil maps from UCONN for these properties.

Commissioner McGuire noted that when there is a big budget deficit, one of the things that usually gets cut hard and first is Farmland Preservation Program and other similar programs.

Chair LaPlante will send a letter to Town Council regarding funding for the EAC.

Correspondence / All Commissioners – None.

Next Meeting Date - April 12, 2016

Motion was made by Commissioner McGuire to adjourn seconded by Commissioner Dynia – No discussion – Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM

Respectfully submitted by,

Kathleen Vose, Secretary