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ENFIELD AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 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, September 13, 2016 @ 8:44 PM.

ROLL CALL

Secretary Kathy Vose took the roll.

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

Also present: Karen Timpone – Recording secretary.

Absent – Commissioner Cote

Approval of Minutes - Chair LaPlante empowered Commissioner Kneiss as a voting member for this meeting.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: Motion was made by Commissioner Vose to approve the minutes of July 12, 2016, seconded by Commissioner Wyzga. No discussion – passed unanimously - abstentions by Commissioner Dynia and Commissioner McGuire – 5/0/2.

Public Hearing – None.

Public Participation – None.

Correspondence / All Commissioners –

Chair LaPlante spoke to Attorney Andrew Urbanowicz, an attorney in town who handles a lot of Farmland Preservation. She asked if he would come to a meeting and talk at one of the meetings. He suggested that someone from the State come and talk about the Community Farm Preservation Program. He did reiterate that the state does do a lot of the footwork, value of property, get two assessments on it, and determine the value. They then present it the Town with all information and see if the Town wants to take it. Commissioner McGuire spoke to Cameron Weimar who said there may be some interest with a smaller farm in town. It was suggested a meeting be held and invite the Town Manager, council members and someone from the State who understands the program who can answer questions regarding Community Farmland Preservation. Commissioner McGuire will invite someone from the state to a future meeting for this discussion – possibly the EAC October meeting.

Planning for Agriculture - A Guide for CT Municipalities - Commissioner Vose did the Webinar for this and also read it and all Commissioners were given a copy.

It talks about what tools are available to help you get started to local town planning for agriculture. Stresses the importance of partnerships, new approaches, and understanding the challenges in the business of farming. How to encourage agriculture in the community. Suggests having local farmers on town boards and commissions. Talks about the tax reductions for farms. Shows farmland soils and ratings. Funding farmland protection, etc. Very informative and answers many questions.

American Farmland Trust/Working Lands Alliance - Clark Chapin (who took Lisa Bissett's place) from American Farm Land Trust told Commissioner Vose he would come to a meeting. Chair LaPlante suggested inviting him to the same meeting that the Town Council and Cameron Weimar/someone from the state.

Commissioner Kneiss suggested that maybe having a farm meeting in February. Farmers are having hard time getting help.

Approval of Invoices or Financial Matters: None.

Reports of Officers Committees and Staff: None.

Unfinished Business:

Farmland Preservation Program – Still working on this.

Criteria for ranking all farms – Chair LaPlante suggested it be completed after the meeting with the town council and Cameron Weimar.

List of Farms – We do have a list of 490 farms

Four Town Fair is September 15, 16 and 17.

New Business: None.

Next Meeting Date - October 11, 2016 -

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 PM.