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ENFIELD AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 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 Wednesday November 9, 2016, at 8:55 PM.

ROLL CALL

Chair LaPlante took the roll.

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

Also present: Karen Timpone – Recording secretary.

Absent – Commissioner Vose and Commissioner Cote.

Chair LaPlante empowered Commissioner Kneiss to be a voting member at this meeting.

Approval of Minutes - A motion to accept the minutes of October 11, 2016 was made by Commissioner Dynia seconded by Commissioner Kneiss – No discussion – passed unanimously – 6/0/0

Public Hearing – None.

Public Participation – None.

Correspondence – Chairperson, Members, Staff – Chair LaPlante noted in the October 25th Connecticut Weekly Agricultural Report – Proposals are being sought for permits to farm on Agricultural lands located in the State Correction Facilities – 2 parcels - 22.4 acres on the grounds of the Enfield Correctional Institute and Osborn Correctional Institute located off Shaker Road in Enfield and Bilton Road in Somers consisting of grassy, hay land on gently sloping to rolling lands and 78.6 acres of farmland on the grounds of the Enfield Correctional Institute and Osborn Correctional Institute located off Taylor Road. Proposals had to be submitted by October 31, 2016.

Chair LaPlante stated Commissioner Vose went to the Farm Viability Grant – Applying for this grant is premature for Shaker Road/Elm Street parcel. She was told there was another grant through the Department of Agriculture that has no deadline and application can be submitted any time, The Farmland Restoration Program . Commissioner McGuire stated the application has to be filled out and sent to the State who needs to approve it and then EAC has to contact NRCS for a Plan of Conservation. The EAC will walk the property on Saturday, December 3, 2016 at 9:30.

Chair LaPlante stated regarding the farmer’s meeting – she found at the Agricultural Experiment Station and they have speakers available for different topics regarding types of soils, earthworms, high tunnels, control plant diseases, etc. – It was decided that this meeting should only consist of the Community

Farmland Preservation Program - Commissioner McGuire stated that we should have the designated contact person in place for the Community Farmland Preservation Program before going forward. Commissioner McGuire and Chair LaPlante will co-write a letter that will be sent to the Town Manager asking for a designated person for The Community Farmland Preservation Program. Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall stated that farming is also considered Economic Development – The farmer's meeting will be scheduled for the EAC March meeting which is Tuesday March 14th, snow date will be Wednesday March 15th - There will be a questionnaire for the farmer's who attend regarding topics they would be interested in at a future farmer's meeting.

Unfinished Business –

Community Farmland Preservation Program –

Criteria for Ranking - Chair LaPlante got a list of soils. She will e-mail to all members. It shows all the different types of soils. It is an NRCS document – She also got a map of Enfield which shows statewide important soils and prime farmland soils. The criteria for the farm ranking will be discussed and worked on at the next meeting.

Chair LaPlante suggested that all owners of properties not being used for farmland but could be used for farming because of prime farming soil be invited to the March Farmer's meeting. She asked all commissioners to make a list of properties they come upon that would meet the criteria. A list of those parcels should be done before invitations go out.

New Business – None.

Next Meeting Date - Tuesday, December 13, 2016

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 PM.