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ENFIELD AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY January 9, 2018

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 January 9, 2018 @ 8:45 PM.

ROLL CALL

Kathy Vose took the roll.

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

Also present: Michael Ciriello - Director of Economy Development, Karen Timpone – Recording secretary

Absent – Commissioner Doyle

Chair LaPlante empowered Commissioner Kneiss as a voting member for this meeting

Approval of Minutes - A motion to accept minutes of December 12, 2017 as written was made by Commissioner Cote, seconded by Commissioner Dynia – No discussion - abstentions by Commissioner McGuire and Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall – 6/0/2.

Public Input – None.

Development Services Director/Staff Report and Discussion –

Multi-town round table discussion - Chair LaPlante stated that a discussion took place at the ECC meeting regarding the multi-town round table discussion now called a summit. They are looking for an early March date for this summit. There is a focus group meeting on Thursday January 25, 2018 from 10 to 11:30 and a second one same date from 1 to 2:30 - Please see ECC minutes from January 9, 2018. Commissioner Cote stated that he brought his Christmas tree from a farm in Agawam and had discussion with the tree farmer there who had a lot of information regarding the farms in Agawam. Commissioner Cote suggested that Agawam be included in the round table/summit. Michael Ciriello will reach out to them.

Farmland Preservation Account – Chair LaPlante stated that the Farmland Revenue Account has been set up – but it needs to be promoted to local funeral homes to use as a valid donation. Michael Ciriello will have Chris work on this.

Unfinished Business – Community Farmland Preservation Program – Ranking criteria.

Chair LaPlante gave out a list of definitions - There is a question of present zone designation #H – Industrial or Residential which one is more likely to be developed? It was decided that should not have a major impact so H and I (Amount of town funding) will come out of the criteria. The EAC decided to go through criteria definitions one by one.

- A. Size of the parcel – will stay as is.
- B. Suitability for agricultural soil – USDA soil survey – Prime soils (excellent) and soils of statewide importance (good).
- C. Site location – Sewer and/or public water
- D. Contiguous with open space and preserved farmland
- E. Visual Impact for public streets –
- F. Natural Resource significance biodiversity, vernal pools, etc. There is a biodiversity map to check for rare and endangered species. Natural Resources - vernal pools, streams, ponds, or natural ridges.
- G. Development/Economic/Financial Pressures – Commissions shall talk to the owner to see if they have been approached to sell to a developer either now or previously.
- H and I – will be coming out of criteria.
- J - Percent of cropland is from the total parcel that could support crops – no necessarily in farming right now.
- K – Percent of the cropland that is actively being farmed.
- L. On farm investment and improvements – Commitment to farming, how committed does this farmer appear to be. Continued personal investment- buildings, clearing cropland.

Commissioner McGuire spoke to Cam Weimar - Director of the State Farmland Preservation Program. He told him how much work Katherine Winslow did getting the EAC hooked into the Farmland Preservation Program for the town. Commissioner McGuire asked what the status was of the application pending and to which he brought him up to date on. Mr. Weimar is going to take a look at the file and asked that Michael Ciriello give him a call.

Correspondence / All Commissioners – None.

Next Meeting Date – Tuesday - February 13, 2018

Adjournment – A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Kneiss seconded by Commissioner Cote – passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned @ 9:15