

ENFIELD AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2021

A Regular Virtual Meeting of the Enfield Agricultural Commission was called to order by Chair Karen LaPlante on Tuesday, February 9, 2021 @ 7:11 PM

ROLL CALL

Kathy Vose took the roll.

Present - Chair LaPlante, Commissioner Cote, Commissioner Dynia, Commissioner Vose, Commissioner Wyzga, Commissioner Sacerdote, Commissioner McGuire and Commissioner Kober.

Also present: Karen Timpone – Recording secretary

Absent – Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall

Approval of Minutes - A motion to accept minutes of January 12, 2021 was made by Commissioner Dynia and seconded by Commissioner Cote – No discussion – 6/0/2 abstentions by Commissioner McGuire and Commissioner Kober.

Public Participation – None

POCD Update - Chair LaPlante reported that there have not been any meetings as of yet. She did say the survey has gone out.

Unfinished Business -

Farms and Farmland Preservation – Chair LaPlante asked Laurie to find out if the farmland preservation money can be put in a separate account and the EAC asked for \$50,000 to go into the fund for this coming year's budget – Commissioner Wyzga spoke to Mr. Mullen regarding farmland preservation and she explained the hold up to him. Chair LaPlante sent out an updated farmland list to all Commissioners. She asked that everyone look at it especially the working list. There are some discrepancies in the GIS v the map – some of the parcels are combined. The list has some possible 490 that are under 10 acres. There are some between 15 and 25 acres that may work for the Community Farmland Preservation. The EAC will look at them individually and the bigger ones are possible for the State program. Commissioner McGuire stated that the list should be reviewed and the EAC will identify which qualifies for open space and farmland designation. Chair LaPlante will ask Laurie for a map of all the highlighted properties (different colors for already preserved in the state program, different colors for pasture, tillable B and tillable A and woodlands.)

Correspondence / All Commissioners & Staff –

Commissioner McGuire reported that there were quite a few farms preserved last year and they were able to do so with COVID restrictions in place. Commissioner Dynia asked the difference between tillable A and B. Commissioner McGuire stated it is a description of the type of soil and the use of the property. Tillable A is level, not hilly, ground fully tillable being used to grow high end crops – B is the next category down can be prime soils but can also be important soils, and could be hillier ground and C and D could be rocky and/or permanent pasture and then forest land which can be on the farm if over 25 acres.

Commissioner Dynia read that Jamaican pot industry crops are way down this year due to lack of rain and drought which is hurting the tourist industry in Jamaica.

Next Meeting Date - Tuesday, March 9, 2021

Adjournment – A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner McGuire seconded by Michael Dynia - passed unanimously –

The meeting was adjourned @ 7:42 PM