

MINUTES
ENFIELD AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION
TUESDAY, May 9, 2023, 7:00 PM
REGULAR MEETING in the Enfield Room
820 Enfield Street, Enfield, CT 06082

RECEIVED
ENFIELD TOWN CLERK
2023 MAY 16 AM 11:34
Shela M. Bailey

1. Call to Order

Chair LaPlante called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM.

2. Roll Call

Members Present: Chair Karen LaPlante, Commissioners, Kathleen Vose, Gretchen Pfeifer-Hall, William Cote, Phil Kober and Michael Dynia.

Members Absent: Nancy Wyzga, Timothy McGuire

Also Present: Ms. Driver- Assistant Planner

3. Approval of Minutes:

a) April 11, 2023

Commissioner Cote made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Vose, to approve the minutes from April 11, 2023.

Discussion: Commissioners discussed the following revisions be made to the minutes from April 11, 2023

#6 Reports of Officers, Committees, and Staff: Ms. Driver stated that staff recommend the Commission generate 2 letters to the Town Manager. The first letter requests \$15,000 to continue the farmers' market and the second requests \$15,000 to be added to the budget for the Consultant for the Agricultural Summit Seminars.

#9 New Business: Ms. Driver stated that staff recommend the Commission generate 2 letters to the Town Manager. The first letter requests \$15,000 to promote the farmers' market and the second requests \$15,000 in funding for the Agricultural Summit.

#5 Correspondence: Commissioner Dynia made mention of an article in the Journal Inquirer about the Oak Ridge dairy farm in Ellington that is being preserved through the State Farmland and Preservation Program.

Commissioner Dynia made a motion to approve the minutes as amended, seconded by Commissioner Vose.

Motion passed 5-0-1 vote.

Chair LaPlante stated that Commissioner Kober is a voting member.

4. Public Communication: None

5. Correspondence: Chair LaPlante stated that she sent a letter to the Town Manager requesting \$15,000 for the farmers market and \$15,000 for the farm summit. The response from the Town Manager was that both will be given consideration in the budget process. Chair LaPlante read the letter from the Town Manager to the Commissioners as well as her email response back to the Town Manager which she sent to all the Commissioners as well as copying Director Whitten.

Ms. Driver read an email from Director Whitten to the Town Manager regarding the information from the last summit.

Chair LaPlante discussed the Farm Viability Grant. Chair LaPlante and Commissioners Pfeifer-Hall and Cote attended the webinar on this grant and the guidelines. The discussion was on how to go ahead and pursue this grant.

Ms. Driver suggested putting out a survey to find new farmers and gathering this information in applying for this grant. The Commission could find out what farmers are interested and what they want to do and get the land ready. This provides time to get the grant written by the grant writer. Ms. Driver informed the Commission on how to create a survey.

6. Reports of Officers, Committees, and Staff:

Ms. Driver stated that she attended the Earth Day Event in Ellington. Oak Ridge Farms had a table at this event. They brought some dairy cows and provided samples of chocolate milk. They were trying to get people to sign up for the modern milkman truck.

7. Unfinished Business: None

8. Old Business:

Chair LaPlante stated that based on the Town Managers email it sounds like there will not be a Farmers Market this year, but she does not think that it is a definite yet.

9. New Business: None

10. Next Meeting Date: June 13, 2023

11. Adjournment:

Commissioner Cote made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Kober.

A vote by show of hands 6-0-0 passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM

Prepared by: Recording Secretary, Sandie Barone