

Agriculture Commission Minutes 3/18

Attendees: Alex Savitsky, Jeff Savitsky, Dave Wasnieski, Liz MaCallister

Meeting called to order at 6:31pm

Minutes from February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2012 meeting approved by Dave W, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alex

No citizens comments, No chair report

Old Business

ChrisB: hoping with the upcoming workshop with Paula Stahl to present the document put forth by the Colchester Farmers Working group with recommended changes to the current zoning regulations. Dave W: would like to hear what Paula has to say in reference to the document and to compare to other towns where she is doing a similar presentation. Liz: a lot of work has been put into the document and should move forward with it. Adam T: on agenda for the board of Finance meeting on Wed to present the document for review. Chris B: does Paula Stahl's input carry any weight. Adam T: P&Z does respect our input from the commission and Paula Stahl, 4 months since initially presented. Plan to put forward at the P&Z meeting at the April 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. Liz Agrees that presenting the document at the April 17<sup>th</sup> meeting is a good idea, another meeting to prepare and it will be after Paula Stahl's workshop.

Motion: Move forward with presenting the Colchester Farmers working group document to the planning and Zoning after having it reviewed by the Ag commission at the April 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. Motion: Dave W. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alex S. approved by Alex, Dave, Liz, Jeff

Town-wide workshop concerning POCD and zoning regulations, Workshop by Paula Stahl( Fiscal Value of Land Use ). Liz: should be active about getting people to attend the meeting.

Land trust to send out flyers, contact Ryan Blessing( Norwich Bulletin ) about a news brief, mass email through the town, take advantage of social media. Also contact local newspapers: Hartford Courant, New London Day, Rivereast, Reminder news. Also try to get into the Colchester School System: Juhl, Hage as contacts

Regional workshop by Paula Stahl, April 24<sup>th</sup> – all preparations and arrangements put forth by Adam Turner Local towns Agriculture Commissions invited: Bozrah, Salem, East Haddam, East Hampton, East Lyme

New Business

Meeting with 1<sup>st</sup> selectman, town planner, P & Z commission chairman, B of S liasons to Agri and P & Z commissions: Liz: meeting was uneventful, felt was listened to, but not much was accomplished, not productive. Dave W: thought chair of P&Z was helpful, thought he listened at all that was said.

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*Liz MaCallister*

Discussion about improving the Ag Commissions effectiveness to serve the town's agriculture community: More educational outreach programs, Booth at the farmers market, work with the garden club ( Katherine Koshiba ) Katherine also wants to grow a garden for the food bank and soup kitchen. Get the school system involved. Have student liaison from Bacon Academy

Discussion about enrollment and nomination of election of officers: Enlarging membership? Better publicity?

Adjourn 7:58pm Motion Jeff, 2<sup>nd</sup> Dave