

AGRICULTURE COMMISSION

September 17, 2012 - 7:00PM
Colchester Town Hall
Room 3

MEETING AGENDA

RECEIVED
COLCHESTER, CT
2012 SEP 11 AM 11:58
Nancy A. Bray
NANCY A. BRAY
TOWN CLERK

1. Call to order
2. Additions and/or changes to the Agenda
3. Approve Minutes of the August 20, 2012 Agriculture Commission Meeting
4. Citizens comments
5. Chair report
6. Old business
 - a. Update from Town Planner concerning the Slembeck Farm.
 - b. Update of status of Town of Colchester's adoption of zoning regulations suggested in "Guidance & Recommendations for Connecticut Municipal Zoning Regulations and Ordinances for Livestock."
 - c. Review of action items still pending as of September 17, 2012 (attached to this agenda) and pick at least one item to put on the agenda for the next Agriculture Commission meeting.
 - d. Any other old business deemed necessary.
7. New business
 - a. Discussion and possible action on Agriculture Commission recommendations to the Board of Selectmen concerning training for Colchester Police Department, State Police, Animal Control Officer and personnel from surrounding towns on containing and controlling escaped large livestock.
 - b. Any other new business deemed necessary.
8. Adjournment

Attachment: Agriculture Commission Action Items Still Pending as of September 17, 2012

Agriculture Commission Action Items Still Pending as of September 17, 2012

Bracketed numbers refer to minutes [yymmdd paragraph] when items were last discussed

1. Bylaws draft needs discussion and approval [120521 6c(1)].
2. Liz to contact towns of Guilford, Thompson and Sterling about their procedures for handling farmers' or citizens' concerns and complaints [120521 6c(2)].
3. Change in 490A acreage requirements [120521 6c(3)].
4. For zoning and tax purposes, broaden right to farm policy to allow farms by right to engage in business activities that are not traditional farming but are related to or consistent with farming [120416 6c].
5. Investigate the tax rates for the 490 program with the goal of adhering to the current CT Dept of Agriculture guidelines for valuations of all farmland in town [120416 6c].
6. Authorize additional tax exemptions that the state allows for farm machinery (beyond the original \$100,000 exemptions), farm buildings and extra property tax abatements on certain types of farms [120416 6c].
7. Involve the Colchester school system in farm awareness programs as a means of stemming future problems as well as educate local students about the role of Colchester's farms in food production and their community [120416 6c].
8. Make it easier for farmers to obtain and maintain (with a sense of security) the agricultural tax status 490A and 490 [120416 6c].
9. Revisit Farmland Ranking Criteria to assign weights to each factor [120521 6a].
10. Work with Planner to compile a complete inventory and ranking of all Colchester farmlands [120416 6a].
11. Recommendations to P&Z concerning zoning regulations and ordinances for livestock in the town of Colchester [120820 6c].
12. Resolve issues concerning the future expansion of the Colchester Farmers Market [120820 7a].