

Colchester Agriculture Commission

Minutes of Meeting

Monday, February 24, 2014-7:00P.M.

Break Rm.

Attending: C. Bourque, D. Wasniewski, O. Duksa, A. Zimmerman, A. Savitsky

Others attending: Kevin Hackbarth

**1. Call to Order:**

Meeting was called to order by Chairman C. Bourque at 7:06pm

**2. Additions to Agenda:**

No Additions

**3. Approval of Minutes of Ag. Com. on Dec. 16, 2013**

D. Wasniewski moved that the minutes of 12/16/14 be approved as submitted. A Savitsky seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

**4. Citizens comments:**

None

**5. Chair Report:**

C. Bourque commented about Gov. Maloy proposal of a bill to protect equestrian facilities about horses inherently being vicious animals.

**6. Election of Secretary:**

D. Wasniewski nominates O. Duksa for secretary, A. Savitsky seconds, motion carries.

**7. Discussion of Farm to School lunch program:**

C. Bourque shared a letter from Alicia McAvay in regards to a grant for a local food hub into the school system. Contact C. Bourque for a copy of letter.

Fresh New London is the idea.

Norwich school has the Farm to School program in place.

Suggestions on moving this idea forward:

- Go to Economic Development of Colchester. How can they help make this viable.
- Plenty of employment
- More parent involvement
- Pull teachers into the idea
- Petition support from parents
- Have a Jt. Meeting with
  - Ag. Commission

NANCY A. BRAY  
TOWN CLERK



2014 MAY 16 PM 3:54

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COLCHESTER, CT

- Board of Ed.
- Key note person Steve Ravitsky
- Press?
- Who else?
- Plan an informational meeting in May
  - Dept. Ag.
  - Food Service
- Colchester owns land. Can we engage the land to produce for our school systems?
- POCD should be looked at in this regards to consider this issue and how the land can provide for the community!

**Plan of Action for next meeting:**

- a. Everyone make a list with thoughts on who should be a part of this informational meeting.
- b. Chair talk to Ron from the Board of Ed. For a meeting time. Questions:
  - i. Special Meeting?
  - ii. Ag. Com. Night?
  - iii. Brd. Of Ed. Night?
- c. Chair makes contact with Alicia McAvay

**8. Committee Report:**

**a. Education**

D. Wasniewski and A. Zimmerman discussed about the delivery of wood to school? D. Wasniewski needs to contact with Chris or Joe about what supplies they need.

Build from the ground up...

- i. Social Media Access
  1. Youtube videos **\*\*What videos are out there to educate parents and kids about processed foods?**
  2. Facebook connections
- ii. Contact Audio Club/IT of Bacon Academy, Garritt Dukette about somebody trained to record and broadcast our meetings and how.
  1. Students at school
  2. Adults?
  3. Contact Garritt for answers about equipment and people to run it.
- iii. K. Hackbarth (High School Student- Community Activist Class)  
Kevin gave info to both kids and parents.

**b. Farm Building Tax Exemption**

Chair and Gregg Shuster to talk about Ag. Viability grant.

**Plan of Action:**

- a. Chair- Get the tax assessor to give the list of farm buildings that qualify for the exemption.
- b. Chair- Contact First Selectman about the tax assessor to give the list. (Farms that file M2)

**9. Discussion and possible action regarding land use issues of interest to this commission:**

- a. POCD Revision- Not a good attendance last meeting. Chair concerned with...
  - i. Old POCD- Very detailed for specific goals
  - ii. New POCD- Glenn is producing a vague rewrite not to have these specific goals
- b. New land use regulations:
  - i. Pay close attention to commercial entities of farming and make sure there is that ability.
  - ii. Work with P&Z to keep doors open with us
  - iii. Town needs to be on the front end of these regs. For supporting composting.

**Plan of Action:**

- 1. Chair- Ask the Town Engineer to come to one of our meetings and talk about the road situation due to new regs.

**10. Advocate Boot Camp review:**

Chair has a lot of info and brochure about advocating agriculture. We need to bring together for advocating for our farms. Again we need to apply for Ag. Viability Grant and we need to get details on what we want out of that grant...

- i. Directional Signs on street signs.
- ii. Other?

**11. Adjournment:**

D. Wasniewski motioned to adjourn O. Duksa second, Motion carried. Adjourned at 9:08 pm