

Colchester Agriculture Commission

Minutes of Meeting

Monday, March 17, 2014

Town Hall, Break Rm.

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

Absent: D. Wasniewski

Others attending: High School students- Sabrina McFarlane, Jackie Duddie, Lisa Soltren (sp?) Mitchell Hallee, CCC People- Cindy Praisner, Dawn LePage, Board of Ed. Brad Bernier

1. Call to Order:

Meeting was called to order by Chairman C. Bourque at 7:05 pm.

2. Additions and/or changes to Agenda:

Move to Item #6 of the agenda and then return to #3,4,5 due to other attendance in regards to #6. Motion carried.

6. Participation in Collaborative for Colchester Childrens Farm Family Fun Day event.

1. Goal to have Fam. Fun Day at Zagray Farm.
 - a. Real Agriculture Experience-Big plots of Veg./crop.
2. Set up a booth for Farm to School program at this day.
 - a. Need dates
 - b. Alicia McAvay on board with us.
3. Poss. Have the Farmer's Market that day at Zagray Farm.
 - a. Bee to Honey demo.. "Where does honey come from?"
 - b. Back yard chickens
 - c. Show case what kids are apart of
4. 4H Participation? Franklin, CT
5. Hikers: Hikers hike for a prize. ¼ mile hike to involve participation in preservation.

Plan of Action:

- Need to find dates that will work. Sat.? or Sun.?
 - Saturday-June 14, 2014 Tentative Date?
 - Sunday-June 8, 2014
- Dawn and Cindy-
 - Contact the Historical Society
 - Contact Summer Series for advertising in schools.

NANCY A. BRAY
TOWN CLERK

Nancy A. Bray

2014 MAY 16 PM 4:00

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7. Discussion of Farm to School lunch program

- LedgeLite- Grant for all 20 Schools in New London to promote Farm to School program.
 - 1st year- Connect idea to schools
 - 2nd year- Connect farmers to schools
- Professional Development Day- School lunch people to come and meet the idea, farmers, etc.
- FOOD HUB-Company to manage/preserving and then delivering local foods to participating schools.
 - Maybe located in Colchester!
 - Start with Produce and then work on integrating protein in the system. Protein is difficult.. A., Savitsky, suggests about gov. help. Can Gov't local and national help the schools to get funds for protein?
 - Grants?? Awarded in Oct. Apply early and both fed. And state.
 - Contact entities that are already implementing it.
- Brad (Bd. Of Ed.)
 - All Great ideas but you have to get it past budget!
 - After budget gets passed, hold a jt. Meeting with the Board of Ed. And Ag. Commission.
 - This idea started with non GMO... Will the Farm Fresh Group commit to use of GMO Free products? C. Bourque says yes. The local food is great you can control how and what products can be used.
- School Garden
 - Grow their own food and the use the produce in school.
 - Culinary classes
 - Etc.

Plan of Action:

1. Check for Joint meeting dates... Meeting should be held at the Board of Ed. Due to already school audience
2. Chair talk to Ron

8. Committee Reports

- a. Education- Dave is moving along...Snow delay for lumber.
- b. Farm Building Tax Exemption
 - 25 towns have \$100,000/building exempt
 - Chris talked with Jon Chaponis in re. to farms that are able to participate.
 - Question? How are Equestrian Arenas land on the tax exemptions???

9. Discussion and possible action regarding use of Town owned or eased Farm land.

1. Motion: O. Duksa Make a motion to suggest that the town inventory and investigate options for putting their owned and leased land back into Ag. Production through sale and lease.

a. Discussion: Chair to contact Selectman

10. 3rd. Annual CT Agriculture Commission Conference.

3. Approve Minutes of the Ag. Comm. On 2/24/14

Postpone of approval of minutes of 2/24/14

11. Adjournment.

O. Duksa motioned to Adjourn A. Savitsky second motion carries. Adjournment at 9:10 pm.