

Colchester Agriculture Commission
Monday November 16, 2015 – 7:00 PM
Town Hall Meeting Room 3

MEETING MINUTES – D. Rosenblatt

PRESENT COMMISSION MEMBERS: C. Bourque, D. Rosenblatt, D. Wisniewski, O. Duksa

PRESENT ALTERNATES: L. Curtis

ABSENT ALTERNATES: C. Csere

Meeting began at 7:00

ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO AGENDA: None

APPROVE MINUTES OF THE AGRICULTURE COMMISSION ON: October 19, 2015

Moved: L. Curtis

Seconded: D. Wisniewski

Approved unanimously

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: No citizens present

CHAIR REPORT: No Chair Report this month

COMMUNICATION BETWEEN TOWN PLANNING DEPARTMENT AND
AGRICULTURE COMMISSION:

The original mission of the Colchester Agriculture Commission was to perform as an advisory group to the other Commissions in Colchester.

In light of this mission, it has been put forth to create a flyer outlining the assistance that the Ag Commission can provide to prospective farmers/equestrians who are making applications to Planning and Zoning, Assessors or Tax Departments. This flyer would be placed on top of the information packet given to the new farmer/equestrian.

The flyer will encourage prospective farmers to meet with the Ag Commission first before completing/submitting any/all documents to Colchester to ensure that all wording and intentions are appropriately stated. Special attention will be given to P.A. 490.

RECEIVED
COLCHESTER, CT
2015 NOV 30 AM 9:14
D. Rosenblatt
TOWN CLERK

Since the last meeting, Town elections have been held and there is new leadership. It has been suggested that a delegate(s) from the Ag Commission should submit the flyer in Commission meetings.

O. Duksa will create one draft cover letter to address all aspects will be given to the Town Planning Office and Assessors office. She will meet with C. Bourque to complete the letter and submit to the Ag Commission on the next meeting.

DISCUSSION OF FUTURE PROJECTS:

- Review of existing farmers' status with Assessors Office: C. Bourque provided documents and will obtain additional documents from the Assessors Office so that the Ag Commission can further identify that all available tax breaks are being utilized. D. Wisniewski will review and possibly meet with L. Curtis after the initial review to present to the Ag Commission on a later date.
- Since the loss of Alan Zimmerman due to relocation, there have been no applications for Ag Commission membership. The current membership was encouraged to actively recruit applications from acquaintances and other identified prospective members.
- Possible joint meetings with Economic Development Commission to identify farmers as economic opportunities of value to Colchester.

2016 MEETING CALENDAR:

The following dates will be submitted as Ag Commission meeting dates for 2016:

- January 25th, 2016
- February 22nd, 2016
- March 21st, 2016
- April 18th, 2016
- May 16th, 2016
- June 20th, 2016
- July 18th, 2016
- August 15th, 2016
- September 19th, 2016
- October 17th, 2016
- November 21st, 2016
- December 19th, 2016

L. Curtis to submit to Town Clerk

MOTION TO SUBMIT CALENDAR: D. Rosenblatt

SECONDED: O. Duksa

Passed unanimously

MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING:

Moved: L. Curtis

Seconded: O. Duksa

Motion passed unanimously

Meeting adjourned 8:23 PM

Minutes respectfully submitted by D. Rosenblatt, acting as Secretary for the Agriculture Commission