

Colchester Agriculture Commission
Monday February 27, 2017 – 7:00 PM
Town Hall Meeting Room 3

MEETING MINUTES – D. Rosenblatt

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

PRESENT ALTERNATES: C. Csere

ABSENT ALTERNATIVES: L. Curtis

TOWN LIAISON: None

Meeting began at 7:02

ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO AGENDA: None

APPROVE MINUTES OF THE AGRICULTURE COMMISSION ON: January 23, 2017

Moved: D. Rosenblatt

Seconded: O. Duksa

Approved

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: None

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

- Nomination to Chairman C. Bourque by D. Rosenblatt
Carried unanimously
- Nomination to Vice Chairman D. Wisniewski by C. Bourque
Carried unanimously
- Nomination to Secretary D. Rosenblatt by O. Duksa
Carried unanimously

MOTION TO MOVE AGENDA ITEMS 7 AND 8 UP, MOVING 6 TO THE END

Moved: O. Duksa

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COLCHESTER, CT
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Seconded: D. Rosenblatt

Carried unanimously

JULY FARM TOURS:

Date: Saturday, July 27, 2017

Farms/venues selected: Priam Vineyard, Cato Corner Farm, Hayward Farm, Cugno's Farm, Colchester Giving Garden, Ruby Cohen Woodlands

Tickets to a bus tour, promotion and brochure outlining the various farms/venues will be arranged by Katharine Kosiba.

Also recommended was a Colchester "Farm Trail" with a map with the local farms in the area

As the date nears, O. Duksa recommended an e-mail "blast" with further information

TOWN FARM SIGNS:

Eligibility and applications have been moved forward to October 2016.

PA490 LAND ASSESSMENTS:

Presentation given by John Chaponis, Colchester Town Assessor and Joan Nichols of CT Farm Bureau.

Booklets outlining Public Act 490 from the Connecticut Farm Bureau were distributed to the Commission and present citizens.

Joan Nichols spoke regarding the history of PA490 and the need for clarity and participation by all farmers in CT.

Topics discussed included:

- How Determinations are made through questionnaires on land leasing costs by farmers in CT
- Assessment of various levels of soil friability and other types of land usage
- How the results of the assessment reduced the per/acre cost of "tillable A & B"
- John Chaponis said that all Colchester Farm Land was valued at "tillable D", which is the lowest rate for tillable land

Darren Cugno, present citizen, asked for an update on the exemptions of AG buildings. John Chaponis and C. Bourque indicated that this was still ongoing and identification of qualifying local farms was still not available.

MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING: D. Rosenblatt

Seconded: O. Duksa

Motion passed unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 8:43 PM

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

