

TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

Minutes

February 27, 2014



I. CALL TO ORDER

The Meeting was called to order in the Town Hall Meeting Room, 11 Rye Street, Broad Brook, CT at 7:30 p.m. by Chairman Albert Grant

II. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

A quorum was established, members present; Albert Grant, Kirk Montstream, Jim Stremper and Pete Larese

Also present from the Board of Selectmen; Denise Menard and Jason Bowsza and Robin Newton from the planning office

III. ADDED AGENDA ITEMS

Pete to submit his paperwork/application to be removed as an alternate and seek appointment as a regular member of the Agriculture Commission

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

January 27, 2014 minutes were submitted for review. A motion to accept these minutes was made by Pete and seconded by Jim. Motion passed

V. REGULAR BUSINESS

- COMMUNITY GARDEN- Robin handed out a memo to this commission. A copy of the memo should be attached with these minutes for public record.

After further discussion, the commission voted to end the rental agreement with the folks of Whole Harmony. Unfortunately the arrangement made between the Agricultural Commission and Whole Harmony gardeners didn't meet the criteria that the Community Garden was intended for.

Going forward, it was determined that the Agriculture Commission will make sure all the proper paperwork and rental fees are properly processed through the planning office.

Short term goals for this commission to open the garden this planting season

- 1 Resubmit a site plan and rules for the garden to the planning office
- 2 Public hearing/PNZ meeting, March 11
- 3 Board of Selectmen Meeting, March 18
- 4 Town Meeting, possibly having approval in April

- FARMERS MARKET- no new business

VI. OLD BUSINESS

1) Plan of Conservation and Development, the commission will continue to assist, when called upon, the planning office in any way we can for the completion and submission of the 2014 POCD

VII. MISCELLANEOUS

Agricultural Commission By-Laws, Robin pointed out a change that is needed on page 3. Language from section 1.2 should be removed from this section and moved down to create a new section 1.3. A draft of the by-laws may be ready for final review at the next meeting.

Correspondence, Connecticut Land Conservation Council Flyer, April Meeting at Wesley University

The commission discussed changing the meeting time of this commissions meetings from 7:15pm now to 6:30pm and possibly changing the Agricultural Commission Meeting night itself. Further discussion on this will be needed.

VII. REPORTS OF STAFF

Jason Bowsza asked this commission if we would be interested in having a speaker from the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, Brian Hurlburt, speak at our next meeting. The topic would be Community Farms Program. We overwhelmingly said YES. Robin stated that she could write a letter, from the planning office to support our interest in having him speak at the next meeting.

IX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Christine Dahl of the East Windsor Dog Park, joined us again, she is putting together information about the community garden. She intends to make a presentation to the Uconn Garden Program, April 18th. With her awesome help and interest with the garden. We hope her hard work not only generates interested gardeners, but some Garden Master Interns. With their gardening skills and the towns land, we really hope this project grows.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Jim made a motion to adjourn this meeting, seconded by Jan
Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kirk Montstream, Secretary, East Windsor Agriculture Commission



TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Planning, Zoning, Zoning Board of Appeals, Conservation/Inland Wetlands, Economic Development

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PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT WEB SITE ⇨ <http://www.eastwindsorct.gov>

MEMO

To: Conservation Commission
From: Robin M. Newton, CZEO
Date: February 27, 2014
RE: Conservation Work



The following projects remain outstanding and should be worked on by the Conservation Commission:

1. Indexing of all open space, public and private, including wetlands with a category for use. ***This project was started with your Board when I was attending all the meetings to get you familiar with the process. If you recall I provided a booklet which showed properties along the Scantic River, ownership of the open space and current use of that open space. I then provided the Commission a list of vacant Town properties to look at and inventory. Commission member Bob Slate attempted to start researching wetland areas and open space associated with subdivision but that project was not followed through on. This is by statute one of the main focuses of the Conservation Commission and needs to be performed.***
2. The Commission should research land areas in Town and make recommendations for uses of those land areas.
3. Inventory of wetlands and natural resources. Create maps and pamphlets associated with them.
4. Make recommendations on use of proposed open space as applications come before PZC. ***(You will recall making recommendations for the Lawrence Farms apartment proposal)***
5. Written comments for the Town Planner for updates to the POCD as they relate to open space and natural resources.