

MINUTES

ENFIELD AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

TUESDAY, January 10, 2023, 7:00 PM

REGULAR MEETING in the Enfield Room

820 Enfield Street, Enfield, CT 06082

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ENFIELD TOWN CLERK

2023 JAN 17 AM 9:17

Sheila M Bailey

1. Call to Order

Vice Chairwoman Karen LaPlante called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

2. Roll Call

Commissioner Vose took the roll and present were Chairwoman Karen LaPlante, Commissioners, Timothy McGuire, Kathleen Vose, Gretchen Pfeifer-Hall, William Cote, Michael Dynia, and Phil Kober.

Commissioner Nancy Wyzga arrived at 7:10 PM

Also, in attendance was Georgienna, Assistant Town Planner

3. Approval of Minutes:

a) December 13, 2022

Commissioner Kober made a motion, seconded by Commissioner McGuire, to approve the minutes from December 13, 2022.

Motion Passed 4-0-3 Vote

4. Public Participation: None

5. Correspondence: Chairwoman LaPlante, passed around a Thank you card from Karen. A farm bureau flyer for December was passed around for the Commissioners to read. Chairwoman stated that she emailed everyone about the Climate Smart Farming Agricultural Forestry Grant. The application deadline is the 18th, which doesn't give enough time to apply. Commissioners discussed the grant and if this is a yearly application or one time. There are several components to this grant such as enhancing the soil, crops, enhancing organic soil, and butterfly habitat.

Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall made a comment. She had a conversation with Nelson Tereso about "that property". The property in question was donated open space after Walgreens was constructed.

A member of the public, farmer Justin joined the meeting. He stated he had nothing specific to say.

Chairwoman LaPlante discussed having a joint meeting with Council Members. Commissioner Kober suggested a couple of people from the Commission along with a couple of people from the Council to discuss agriculture and farmland. Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall suggested inviting the Council members to an agricultural meeting.

Chairwoman LaPlante asked Ms. Driver how many people can be in a meeting before it is a quorum? There can be three people.

A member of the public stopped into the meeting for some information on solar panels. Chairwoman LaPlante informed him that his question falls under the Conservation Commission, however, she asked if

it was about solar panels for farms. Scott Kritzky from 119 Main Street, Somersville, CT addressed the commission.

The Commission gave Mr. Kritzky time to state his concerns. Ms. Driver stated that solar panels are the jurisdiction of the Connecticut Siting Council. The Siting Council allows a short period of time for municipalities to submit comments in.

There was further discussion between Chairwoman LaPlante and Mr. Scott Kritzky on solar panels, applications, farms and Eversource.

Ms. Driver informed the Commission that this conversation should be under public participation, however we are on, 5. Correspondence, and this conversation are suited for the Conservation Commission.

Commissioner Kober made a motion to bring back the Public Participation item on the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Wyzga.

Motion passed by a show of hands 7-0-0 vote

Ms. Driver reiterated that Public Participation is not a discussion. The public comments on something and the Commission takes it into advisement.

Chairwoman LaPlante stated that they have always allowed discussions. Commissioner Kober stated that procedurally it's not a dialog.

6. Reports of Officers, Committees, and Staff:

Chairwoman LaPlante talked about POCD. She sent over the farmland preservation acres to Don Poland. He did add one sentence to the revised POCD. The correct number is 1,337 acres. She has an issue with the sewer service areas and the development on farmland and open spaces.

Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall commented on economic development is working on a grant application. They went in front of the town council and 24 grants were approved.

7. Unfinished Business: none

8. New Business: none

9. Next Meeting Date: February 14, 2023

10. Adjournment:

Commissioner Kober made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Vose.

Motion passed by show of hands 7-0-0 Vote

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM

Prepared by: Recording Secretary, Sandie Barone