

MINUTES
ENFIELD AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION
TUESDAY, February 7, 2023, 7:00 PM
REGULAR MEETING in the Enfield Room
820 Enfield Street, Enfield, CT 06082

RECEIVED
ENFIELD TOWN CLERK
2023 FEB 21 AM 10:48
Shirley M Bailey

1. Call to Order

Chairwoman Karen LaPlante called the meeting to order at 7:06 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, and Michael Dynia.

3. Approval of Minutes:

a) January 10, 2023

Commissioner Dynia made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall, to approve the amended minutes from January 10, 2023.

Discussion on amending section 5, second paragraph, “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.” To “Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall made a comment. She had a conversation with Nelson Tereso about the property at the intersection of Elm Street and Shaker Road.”

Amended section 5, “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.” To “Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall commented on economic development is working on ARPA grant applications. They went in front of the town council and 24 grants were approved.”

Motion Passed by a show of hands 6-0-0 Vote.

4. Public Participation: None

5. Correspondence: Chairwoman LaPlante stated that she received notice from the State on a pending bill before the legislature on the Agricultural Land Preservation Regulations and what they are basically doing is creating the regulations for farmland preservation, so our community farmland program is going to be affected. It lays out what the procedure will be for applicants to apply for development rights. It also gives a scoring for all the different categories. It doesn't appear that based on the scoring that we will necessarily have to do that. One interesting thing here is talking about municipal population change, over the previous 10 years. Chairwoman read for the Commissioners the outline for the scoring.

Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall asked Chairwoman LaPlante to forward the proposed bill.

Commissioner Cote asked if this had anything to do with 490? Chairwoman said, no but some of the questions go back to 490. Commissioner Cote said he is trying to understand the relationship between the proposed addition to the regulation for farmland preservation and what happened to the assessor throwing people out of the 490.

Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall stated because you are losing protection so therefore it makes protecting a farm more valuable so it gets more points if the town has lost other properties that are in 490, in which you get extra points.

Commissioner Cote stated he understood and said so if the property was sold, then you must apply for 490.

Chairwoman stated that there is a minimum of points to get to be considered for the program for the state community.

Commissioner McGuire stated that there was always ranking, however they have made some additions and changes on how they rank them and that the State still does their own ranking.

Commissioner Cote stated that on the community end there was no ranking, we had to come up with our own.

Chairwoman said they had the public hearing last night on the POCD. Gretchen and Karen made some comments at the meeting and Mike and Kathy were there too. Chairwoman LaPlante's comments were mostly on wording on the conservation side.

Commissioner Vose said that one thing most people commented on was that they wanted to keep public hearings.

The maps at the meeting were small that most people could not make comments on them. Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall said you can get a free copy of the maps at the Planning Department because they are on a commission.

Chairwoman LaPlante read her statement from the POCD meeting to the Commission. She discussed the target investment areas. She suggested instead of housing they should invest more on the farmland soil and farming food and becoming a more sustainable community.

Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall stated she also made comments on multifamily housing. This contradicts the efforts of preserving land for agriculture use and activities. The language should be strengthened to include funding of the municipal farmland preservation program by the town council, annually.

Chairwoman stated they are up against a time frame, because of the Planning and Zoning public hearing is March 23rd and she believes this needs to be adopted on that same day.

Commissioner Cote stated that the email from Georgie on January 26th, the question about the maps being full page, she brought it up to Lauri to bring it up to Don Pollard.

Chairwoman shared a map from Suffield with the Commissioners as an example. The preserved farmland should be on our map.

Chairwoman stated that one of the things that did bother her was the future sewers avoidance area and the only area is that little section of town of the farmland preservation. Why run a sewer through protected farmland? If it's not going to be developed why put sewers there.

6. **Reports of Officers, Committees, and Staff:** none
7. **Unfinished Business:** none
8. **New Business:** none
9. **Next Meeting Date:** March 14, 2023

Recorder Sandie Barone informed the Commissioners that she would not be present at the next meeting and asked if the Commissioners could state the name of the person making a motion and state the name of the person making the second.

10. Adjournment:

Commissioner Dynia made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Cote.

Motion passed by show of hands 6-0-0 Vote.

Meeting adjourned at 7:38 PM

Prepared by: Recording Secretary, Sandie Barone