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ENFIELD TOWN CLERK

**ENFIELD AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING**

Tuesday, April 12, 2022

2022 APR 19 AM 10:48

Sheila M Bailey

A Regular Meeting of the Enfield Agricultural Commission was called to order by Chair Karen LaPlante in the Enfield Town Hall, 820 Enfield Street, Enfield, Connecticut on Tuesday, April 12, 2022 @ 7:10 PM

ROLL CALL

Kathy Vose took the roll.

Present – Chair LaPlante, Commissioner Cote, Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall, Commissioner Dynia, Commissioner Vose, and Commissioner Kober

Also present: Georgie Driver - Staff and Karen Timpone – Recording secretary

Absent – Commissioner Wyzga, Commissioner Sacerdote and Commissioner McGuire

Chair LaPlante empowered Commissioner Kober as a voting member for this meeting for the absent Commissioners.

Approval of Minutes - A motion to accept minutes of March 8, 2022, was made by Commissioner Vose, seconded by Commissioner Kober – No discussion – passed unanimously 6/0/0

Public Participation – None.

Correspondence - None.

Review of ByLaws – Commissioner LaPlante read article 15 – which states that the ByLaws can only be amended after the proposed change has been read and discussed at a previously regular or organizational meeting of the commission. The vote shall be taken at a meeting of the Commission provided written notification is submitted to the Commission at least 48 hours prior to that meeting. All amendments must be approved at by at least 2/3 of the members voting there on and in any event such amendment must receive no less than 4 affirmative votes. Commissioner Kober stated that in the ByLaws it says that EAC meets after the adjournment of ECC. This needs to be amended to read that EAC does not meet at 7 and then subsequently address the ECC. Commissioner Cote made a proposal to strike out directly after adjournment of the ECC meeting and have it read every second Tuesday of the month. The agenda will be posted 48 hours ahead of the meeting which will have the time and place for the meeting. The agenda for next month will serve as the 48 hour notice for amendments to the ByLaws. Georgie will type up the final Bylaws with changes and they will be voted on next meeting.

Approval of Invoices or other Financial Matters - Chair LaPlante asked Georgie if there was any money for the Farm Bureau and Georgie reported that there is no money. Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall asked if the EAC will get any money in the future. She did report that they EAC can accept donations at any of their events. Chair LaPlante asked if there are any funds in the new budget for EAC and as of yet Georgie does not know. Georgie will find out who decides on the budget for EAC. Commissioner Cote stated that there was a line item for EAC and ECC in the budget in the past and asked Georgie to find out how the EAC and ECC can get that back. Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall stated that the EAC was asked to step-up when helping the farming community. She feels in order to step-up they should have a budget for helping with programs, education, i.e., the 490 presentation. Chair LaPlante did get an e-mail from the

Town Manager and she is willing to give the EAC money for certain things. Commissioner Kober said that the under the general budget it looks like there is \$3,004 for EAC and ECC (2021.) Under the annual budget it is listed as general fund for EAC and ECC. The proposed budget is on the town website.

Reports of officers, Committees and Staff - Commissioner Kober stated that there was an Ag grant accepting applications up to today. It was the Connecticut Farmland restoration grant. The EAC could have applied for the property on Shaker and Elm. Commissioner LaPlante stated they would have needed matching funds for this. Commissioner Kober suggested that posting links, announcements and updates to all the possible grants, etc. on the town website under the EAC for the future.

Commissioner Cote asked about a grant from the last meeting in which Nelson was going to take a look at it for the Connecticut River Conservancy. Commissioner LaPlante said he did not. Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall feels this should be under ECC and will be moved over. Chair LaPlante stated when she read it she felt because of the numbers, it was for big organizations, i.e., CRCOG applying for the grant for a number of municipalities. It was decided to move this over to the ECC.

Unfinished Business -

POCD – The EAC went over the current draft of POCD goals. Commissioner Cote commented on the first goal – increase percentage of farmland preservation. In the prior meeting they discussed putting in a specific percentage. He did re-write the implementation strategy to read – Increase percentage of farmland preservation through greater use and marketing of state’s small farmland preservation statute which includes farms that are 25 acres or less. The second sentence will state the current percentage and what the goal percentage is. They will remove promote agro-tourism. Commissioner Kober said that in the 2010 POCD there was a line for preserving the viability of agriculture and he would like to see that in the new POCD and use farm friendly zoning laws in order to preserve the viability of agriculture. Georgie stated that the old goals from the old POCD will be switched over to the new POCD if they have not been completed.

Chair LaPlante read a goal from the prior meeting of preserve, support and promote a vibrant agricultural industry in Enfield.

Number 3 - under implementation strategy will be - Farm friendly zoning regs, agro-tourism and farmers market support.

Utilize the Enfield Community Farmland preservation fund to purchase the development rights of local farms with prime farmland soils and soils of statewide importance.

Review the opportunities available to towns to offer tax advantages for farms and farmers, identify available programs and offer these programs to establish farms.

A 490 open space ordinance resolution was drafted up and sent to Laurie who needs to discuss it with the Town Manager before anything can be done. Georgie said it is has not been reviewed as of yet. Commissioner Kober suggested this be put in the ECC POCD.

Georgie reported that the POCD will be meeting on April 21, 2022, 6:30 pm at the Annex auditorium. All are invited public, commissions and agencies. Today is the last day for review for the Commissions and Georgie will submit it. She told the EAC that the consultant will also go through the goals and elaborate on them for the final POCD.

New Business - None.

Next Meeting Date - May 10, 2022

Adjournment – A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Kober, seconded by Commissioner Dynia – No discussion - passed unanimously - 6/0/0

Meeting adjourned @ 8:05 PM