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Sheila M Bailey

ENFIELD AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, October 11, 2022

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, October 11, 2022 @ 7:15 PM

ROLL CALL

Kathy Vose took the roll.

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

Also present: Karen Timpone – Recording secretary

Absent – Commissioner McGuire and Commissioner Sacerdote

Approval of Minutes - A motion to accept minutes of July 12, 2022 (there were not copies for Commissioners to review at the last meeting) was made by Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall, seconded by Commissioner Cote - no discussion – 7/0/0.

A motion to accept the minutes of September 13, 2022 was made by Commissioner Kober, seconded by Commissioner Cote – Commissioner Kober stated the Commission did not receive the minutes until today. He asked if everyone had a chance to review them before they are voted on. Commissioner Cote stated that the meeting minutes were not given out until today and that the June minutes are not posted on the website. Chair LaPlante would like to make sure there are enough copies for all the Commissioners going forward. The Commissioners would like a copy of the minutes once completed which is within 7 days of the meeting. After discussion 5/0/2 – abstentions by Commissioner Cote and Commissioner Dynia.

Public Participation – None.

Correspondence – Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall stated there was an article in the paper regarding the Rose's Berry Farm in Glastonbury. They bought development rights for a portion of the property and someone bought a portion to continue the orchard and the town now is looking at purchasing 23 acres for over a million dollars for preservation. Commissioner Dynia stated that the Town of East Windsor put in their budget a half million dollars for open space. Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall suggested that the EAC and ECC need to point out to Town Council what our neighbors are doing as far as preservation and open space funding.

Reports of Officers, Committees and Staff – None.

Unfinished Business –

POCD - Chair LaPlante stated that the POCD steering committee has been disbanded. There was a joint meeting with P&Z at the end of September, but unfortunately a lot of members of the steering committee were not able to attend. P&Z decided it was far enough along and did not need the general committee anymore. No comments or changes were discussed before the committee was disbanded. They are trying to get the POCD submitted to the state by the end of December. There will be two public hearings one from Town Council to approve and one from P&Z. Chair LaPlante believes comments can still be made

and Georgie (staff) will still have input. There is a new draft from September 23rd that Chair LaPlante will send to all commissioners. The map for the prime soils is very small. Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall asked if all the goals that the EAC requested were added to the POCD. The targeted investment area for conservation and farmland is a little map which just shows what is open space and farmland (two different color green areas) and orange is a natural diversity database. Chair LaPlante asked the POCD consultant if the maps can be made on a full page. The implementation schedule has no listing for Agricultural Commission (it is considered one of the "other agencies".) Right for farm ordinance is under P&Z, Town Council, EAC, and the Development Director. Agricultural land preservation is under P&Z, ECC, Town Council, Development Director and EAC. Zoning regulations is under P&Z and the EAC. Agritourism is P&Z, EAC, and the Development Director. Under the heading Natural Resource Protection and Conservation and under the Agriculture Conservation, increase the number and locations of community gardens is under Town Council and Public Works. Identify high priority agricultural parcels for preservation is under the ECC and Development Director. Create farm friendly zoning regulations is under P&Z, Development Director and EAC. Encourage Agritourism and regulations to allow it, is under P&Z, Development Director and EAC. Evaluate PA-490 to see if it can be made more farm friendly is under the ECC and the Town Assessor, Chair LaPlante asked that one be removed in her comments as she felt that we could not make it more farm friendly because it is a state statute and it was not removed.

Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall asked if the prison is a special development. Chair LaPlante stated they want to make the prison area a special development. Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall asked if they are aware that there are a couple of hundred acres (approximately 300) that are in permanent protection.

Chair LaPlante asked the commissioners read through the farm related items. She also stated that some of the zoning they are talking about allowing multifamily residential housing in industrial zones is where all the farming community is. That is what they wanted to stop was development on the farmland and if it is allowed under I-1 that is a problem for farms and preservation.

New Business – None.

Next Meeting Date is Wednesday November 9, 2022 room will be determined.

Adjournment – A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Kober, seconded by Commissioner Cote, passed unanimously 7/0/0

The meeting was adjourned @ 7:45 pm