

Agenda Minutes
Agricultural Commission Meeting
Monday, March 3, 2008
Town Manager's Conference Room
909 Foxon Road
7:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call:

Call to Order: Chairperson Clifford Potter called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Members Present: Gerald Adinolfi, Nelson Cecarelli, Joseph DeFrancesco

Alternative Members: Harry Juniver, Dudley Harrison

2. Approval of Minutes

Member Cecarelli moved, seconded by Member Juniver to approve the minutes of February 2008 as drafted. The motion was carried unanimously.

3. Unfinished Business

a. Logo Design

Member Potter discussed the logo design and stated that if they decide on a logo, he can go to Tyco and have them put it in a PDF format. He would like to have something completed by the Memorial Day Parade. It was decided to have the banner be just a simple farm scene.

b. Commission Work Plan Tasks

Member Potter stated that this is a work in process and every meeting we have been working on this.

4. New Business

a. Farm market set up at the Augur Farm Property

b. Long term plans for the Augur Farm buildings

Member Potter stated that we need to have complete support from the Town Council not only for the farmers market but for a livestock dairy tribute to Donald Augur in order for us to be able to get a grant from the State. Member Potter also stated that if it is possible for the members to attend the Town Council meeting tomorrow night to discuss what our plans are and to hopefully get a resolution signed.

Member Cecarelli moved, seconded by Member Harrison to approve the resolution. The motion was carried unanimously. The resolution which will be brought before the Town Council will read:

RESOLUTION of North Branford Town Council

WHEREAS, the Town of North Branford acquired the Donald A. Augur property in 2002; and

WHEREAS, the Agriculture Commission has been recognized as an active commission responsible for the promotion of agriculture and other activities; and

WHEREAS, the agriculture commission would like to further promote the community by operating an Open Farmers Market and Heritage Farm Working Display on the Donald A. Augur Property; with the consent of the Town Council,

THEREFORE, let it be known that the town council hereby authorizes the Agriculture Commission to pursue the establishment of a Farmers Market and Heritage Farm Working Display on the Donald A. Augur property with the guidelines for use to be approved by the Town Council and further authorizes the Town Manager to apply for a State Agriculture Viability Grant.

c. Farmers and Tax Issues

Member Cecarelli stated that the additional tax abatement for buildings should not be part of the Commission to propose. This should be something the farmers come together with and go before the Town Council. We have a brand new Town Council now. This is a very expensive area to farm in.

It was decided that the farmers would go before the Town Council to bring the tax abatement issue back. The Agricultural Commission would send a letter in favor.

d. Budget Review from Town Planner

Town Planner Carol Zebb reviewed the budget with the Commission.

Member Juniver moved, seconded by Member Cecarelli to approve the budget as proposed. The motion was carried unanimously.

e. Newspaper Reporters

Member Potter stated that we can not meet with any newspaper reporters until we get complete buy in from the Town Council.

f. Interaction with Guilford Agricultural Commission

Member Potter stated that we invited the Guilford Agricultural Commission to come to our meeting, but none were available.

g. Any other item

Member Harrison questioned why Larry Augur did not put a cover crop on? Is this something the Ag Commission should get involved in? Town Planner Zebb stated that this is something that the Town Council needs to formulate a long term policy for.

5. **Adjournment:**

Member Cecarelli moved, seconded by member Harrison to adjourn the meeting at 9:25. p.m. The motion was carried unanimously.

Submitted by:

Denise A. Prather

Denise A. Prather – Recording Secretary