

**Agenda Minutes
Agriculture Commission Meeting
Monday, March 1, 2010
Town Manager's Conference Room
7:00 pm.**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call:

Call to Order: Chairperson Clifford Potter called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Members Present: Joe DeFrancesco, Jr, Gerald Adinolfi, Ryan Van Wilgen,

Alternate Members: Dudley Harrison, Harry Juniver

Visitor: Larry Augur, Jr.

Approval of Previous Months Minutes

Member Harrison moved, seconded by Member Van Wilgen to approve the minutes of February, 2010 taken by Janet Canning, Temporary Clerk for Debra Criscuolo. The motion was carried unanimously.

2. Unfinished Business

None at this time

3. New Business

- a. **Ag Comm. Brochure grant process**
- b. **Viability state grant. Next steps now after approval (ongoing)**
- c. **Discuss featured farms in The Sound newspaper update. (ongoing)**
- d. **Potato Fest ongoing info. (Ongoing)**
- e. **Filming of agriculture activities. Updates (ongoing)**
- f. **Possible town land rental issues. Updates (ongoing)**
- g. **Possible tax adjustments (farmer's taxes) updates (ongoing)**
- h. **Tractor pull needs, info, and updates. (ongoing)**
- i. **Discuss federal agriculture programs and how they apply to us**
- j. **Goals for 2010. Where we are headed, what we need to do.**
- k. **Results of meeting with school agriculture in school system**
- l. **Results of meetings with agencies (Jiff Martin)**
- m. **Member's items to be discussed**
- n. **Visitor's comments**

The grant has been applied for to pay for brochure costs. It was kicked back due to a lot of people applying – North Branford Agriculture was not the only one denied. The letter and survey needs to go out as soon as possible.

Member Juniver moved for a Motion to Approve Sending Out the Relevant Letter and Survey. Member Adinolfi seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

Specs need to be put together. The Town Attorney will review it. Member Adinolfi and Fran Merola will contact Town Planner Zebb to see what needs to be sent back to the State. Member DeFrancesco suggested to the Agency that people come in and make appropriate bids. A bid was already put in by a town builder in the past.

The matter is currently on hold. Larry Augur agreed to have his two new barns featured in the future. Member Potter will notify Pam Johnson.

Member Potter attended the last Potato Festival meeting. The tent from Bishops is certified fire proof. Member Juniver confirmed the tent is available. The Agency also requested they be informed as to how much corn will be needed for the festival. Certain amounts will be donated, and the rest will have to be paid for.

Member Potter is working on the project. He has to put items on DVD and then they will be run on the Town Cable channel. Member Van Wilgen also offered to help Member Potter with the project.

Member Potter summarized documents provided by Granby and Glastonbury. The Agency has first refusal rights. The average price is \$100.00 per acre and tillable land is worth more. North Branford has no fruit trees. The Town can inspect the property at any time and take back the lease. The “flagging point” should be at the end of the fourth year. Members DeFrancesco, Van Wilgen and Harrison will coordinate a date to put a document together. It is tentatively set for March 8 at 7:00 pm. at Van Wilgen’s Conference Room.

Member DeFrancesco is dealing with the Town concerning possible tax adjustments. No one has called him back as of yet.

Members Van Wilgen and Juniver went to Guilford. They need four pieces of oak and relevant steel will be obtained. Member Potter will be working on the vendor situation.

Member Potter will check with Andy Bozzuto concerning Federal Grants. He has a good contact .. Rosa DeLauro .. who he works with.

The Agency will email Member Potter with any

Member Van Wilgen met with superintendent of schools. The greenhouse will go near the playground off the North Branford High School Cafeteria. The greenhouse will be part of the school curriculum. Member Van Wilgen suggests the Agency members donate time to help with the greenhouse.

4. Farm Friendly Facts

No discussion at this time concerning this matter.

5. Adjournment

Member DeFrancesco moved, seconded by Member Harrison to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 pm. The motion was carried unanimously.

Submitted by:

\s\Debra Ann Criscuolo

Debra Ann Criscuolo

Recording Secretary