

**Agenda Minutes
Agriculture Commission Meeting
Monday, September 13, 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: Gerald Adinolfi

Alternate Members: Dudley Harrison, Harry Juniver

Visitors: Town Manager Richard Branigan and Scott Schoonmaker

2. Previous minutes, read and approval of

Alternate Member Juniver moved, seconded by Alternate Member Harrison to approve the minutes of August, 2010 taken by Gina Cox, Temporary Clerk for Debra Criscuolo. The motion was carried unanimously.

3. Unfinished Business (none)

None at this time

4. New Business & Continued Business

- a. **Ag Comm. Brochure (feedback, if any)**
- b. **Viability state grant. Bid process update (ongoing)**
- c. **Discuss featured farms in The Sound newspaper update. (ongoing)**
- d. **Potato Festival. Our involvement adjustments**
- e. **Filming of agriculture activities. (ongoing)**
- f. **Possible tax adjustments (farmer's taxes) (on hold)**
- g. **Tractor pull needs, info, and updates. (ongoing)(3 dates 2010)**
- h. **Greenhouse updates**
- i. **Member's items to be discussed**
- j. **Visitor's comments**

Town Planner Zebb sent out relevant letters. Chairperson Potter will discuss with Carol the feedback. This matter will appear on October's agenda.

Chairperson Potter attended the bid. Munger bid \$36,715, and Ken Neubig bid \$35,230.00. Neubig got the bid. Tri-State and Calien Companies also bid. The project needs to be done by April to quality for the Grant.

Chairperson Potter is trying to reach Pam Johnson. He is still working on featuring Larry's farm. Also mentioned was Bob Newton's farm will be 100 years old in 2011.

Chairperson Potter passed out a memo from Richard Branigan dated August 16, 2010, in response to the Agency's memo of August 9, 2010.

Alternate Member Juniver made a motion to send out a letter in the near future that the Commission is no longer intervening, and that if a farmer wants to donate corn, or possible wholesale of corn at the festival, they need to contact the Town directly. Alternate Member Harrison seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairperson Potter stated that the Potato Fest this year was not as well attended as last year was. There were long periods of time when the hayride was empty compared to last year when it was steady all day both days.

Chairperson Potter will work on Newton Farm filming. He is also in the process of copying the films so Ryan can reproduce them.

This item is on hold until the October, 2010 meeting.

The Agency discussed possible garden tractors on Sunday. Town Manager Branigan mentioned a tractor show. The fee for the port-a-potty is \$100.00. Light towers will be on stand by to light the pit if need be.

Regarding the greenhouse, the cement is ready to be poured. There is a sidewalk inside and crushed stone for draining.

Scott Schoonmaker joined the meeting (7:45 p.m. to 8:20 p.m.)

The greenhouse is 30 x 60 – 5 feet wide. A heating unit will be put in by John Florio. Bill Choate poured the stone. A farmer in Higganum, Ian Gibson, will be the point person and he will contact Cliff.

The shed from Stanley T. Williams will be moved and tools will be stored in it. From the crop, donations were made to local soup kitchens. Mr. Schoonmaker is looking for donations of tools. Chairperson Potter will do letters to Agway and Country Hardware & Tool.

Town Manager Richard Branigan joined the meeting (8:20 p.m. to 8:55 p.m.)

Town Manager Branigan suggests the Agency contact Frank Mentone for articles in the Totoket Times. He also suggested some sort of electricity to be at the Augur Barn.

5. Executive Session

None at this time.

6. Adjournment

Alternate Member Juniver moved, seconded by Alternate Member Harrison to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 pm. The motion was carried unanimously.

Submitted by:

\s\Debra Ann Criscuolo

Debra Ann Criscuolo

Recording Secretary