

**Agenda Minutes  
Agriculture Commission Meeting  
Monday, May 5, 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 7:05 p.m.

**Members Present:** Nelson Cecarelli, Michael Doody, Town Planner Carol Zebb

**Alternative Members:** Dudley Harrison, Harry Juniver

**2. Approval of Minutes**

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

**3. Unfinished Business**

- a. Continued discussing commission work plan tasks

No discussion at this time.

- b. Grant application

Member Zebb will do the Viability Grant Application. There is a steep grant for economic development, with a lot left. The grant will be used for signage, which will need to be approved. There is now some money in that grant. An inventory of the farmland and type of products will need to be done, as well as quotes will be needed. American Farmland Trust can help with the writing of the grant. They are located in Hartford and the Agency agreed that they do a very nice job.

- c. Levine Barn Grant Information

The Levine Grant gives you funds to study and for restorations.

Member Cecarelli moved for a motion to readjust the Agenda, moving 4e to 3d. Member Doody seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

d. Address barn roof issues

. The Augur barn roof has substantial wind damage. There is contingency money in town, but a claim will need to be made. The Town of North Branford is not self insured.

A letter will need to go to Michelle Lockwood concerning the damage. Member Potter will draft the letter. An appraisal will also need to be done. The Agency determined there is no town maintenance man. If the grant is approved, all barns should have metal roofs. In kind services will also need to kick in. The first step will be to repair the barn to avoid further damage until the Grant application is filed. Member Cecarelli will talk to his contact at the Farm Bureau concerning the Levine Grant. A suggestion would be for the Neubig's to take a look at the damage and get an approximate amount for repairs.

**4. New Business**

a. Potato Fest any new information or changes

Parking possibly would be moved. The Potato Fest would be like a mini Durham Fair. Member Harrison refers to newspaper articles.

b. Logo design and production

Member Zebb will take care of brochure and logo. Member Potter showed examples of signs. Also t-shirts will be ordered – preferably green and red colored.

c. Adding tractors to the Memorial Day Parade

Member Potter reads an email to the VFW. Michael Savinelli replied and he is glad to help out. The tractors need to be at Foote Hill and Spruce Street at 9:00 a.m. The contact for the day is Butch Coe.

d. Barn clean up

Boy scouts or Eagle scouts could possibly help out. Member Potter will do a letter to Fran concerning this. The project would be one section at a time and it will be down the road.

e. Signage purchase for Augur Barn

There may be money for signage. The Swicek's property will require signage on the property. Something similar would be placed on the Augur property, similar to "bed post" signs visible from both sides.

f. Visitor's Comments

None

g. Any items other members wish to discuss

Member Zebb passed out policies and guidelines for the next ten years.

Town Manager Branigan joined the meeting at 8:15 p.m. Member Doody discusses with him the damage to the Augur property and questions the contingency money. Mr. Branigan states there may be a \$10,000.00 deductible. Member Doody discusses the Swicek sign and proposes similar signs for the Augur property and Highland property. Also discussed was the possible relocation of the Potato Festival to the Augur property to take any burden off the ball field.

**5. Executive Session**

No discussion at this time concerning this matter.

**6. Adjournment:**

Member Doody moved, seconded by member Cecarelli to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. The motion was carried unanimously.

Submitted by:

Debra Ann Quinn

Debra Ann Quinn – Recording Secretary