

**Corrected Agenda Minutes
Agriculture Commission Meeting
Monday, September 12, 2011
Town Manager's Conference Room
7:00 pm.**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call:

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

Members Present: Joe DeFrancesco, Gerald Adinolfi, Michael Doody
Gerald Adinolfi

Member Absent: Ryan VanWilgen

Alternate Members: Harry Juniver, Dudley Harrison

Guests: Mayor Anthony Candelora and his wife Mrs Candelora (7:20
p.m.)

Rose Angeloni (7:30 p.m. to 7:50 p.m.)

Emily Constance, Patch.Com

2. Approval of Previous Months Minutes

Alternate Member Juniver made a motion to approve the minutes of August 1, 2011, *with corrections attached and made a part hereof*, Alternate Member Harrison seconded the motion. Member DeFrancesco approved the Special Meeting of August, 2011, seconded by Alternate Member Harrison. All were in favor.

3. Unfinished Business:

None at this time

4. New Business & Continued Business

- a. Tax abatement program
- b. Tractor pull results
- c. Augur Barn updates
- d. Potato Festival updates

e. Members items to be discussed.

f. Visitor Comments

a. Mayor Candelora stated the abatement program is a good program which he supports. He is not against the ordinance, it is just the timing. The town has a pending litigation at the current time that can affect the budget, thereby having a shortfall. The seniors at Hillside Terrace have been cut within the budget and the Board of Education will also be cut accordingly due to the economy and no state funding in place for EAS. Mayor Candelora also confirmed going over the relevant lists with Chairperson Potter several times.

Chairperson Potter questioned when “there is a lull in the waves, can the abatement be an open issue?” Mayor Candelora agreed that it will be discussed again within two to three months. Member Doody added that the abatement may have to go through some process and it will be taken seriously in January or February when the Town Council receives their proposed budget.

Member DeFrancesco voiced his opinion regarding the abatement program being brought up three or four times with no results. He implied that the farmers give back to the town. He also was concerned about how the Town does not budget their funds accordingly. Crops were lost due to the 15 inches of rain from Hurricane Irene.

Member Potter confirmed that the Open Forum will occur in November.

b. The tractor pulls did very well at the Potato Festival. Many good comments came from the people. Another pull is scheduled for October 22. Member Potter will follow up with Vinny at Braggin Rights regarding 2012 pull dates.

c. The Augur Barn survived the hurricane. The electrical system is the next project for the barn which may be put into the budget. Mr. Tobin at TKW Electric gave a proposal of approximately \$4600.00 which is cost for materials only. His time for the project is being donated.

The insulation is falling off the service cable. The building is not up to electrical code and Mayor Candelora agreed this issue needs to be looked into more carefully due to safety issues.

Member DeFrancesco suggested a plan before spending any more funds. Member Doody commented that a plan is in affect. Mayor Candelora suggested the Potato Festival funds may be able to help with the electrical repairs.

d. The Agency did well at the festival. There were no hayrides on Sunday due to the rain.

e. None at this time.

f. No visitor's comments at this time.

5. Executive session

- a. Personnel matter, in accordance with C.G.S. Section 118a (e) (1)
- b. Action to be taken if any

No discussion at this time concerning this matter.

6. Adjournment

Alternate Member Doody moved, seconded by Member Adinolfi to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. The motion was carried unanimously.

Submitted by:

Debra Ann Criscuolo
Recording Secretary

Corrected Agenda Minutes
Agriculture Commission Meeting
Monday, August 1, 2011
Town Manager's Conference Room
7:00 pm.

2. Call to Order and Roll Call:

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

Members Present: Joe DeFrancesco (left at 7:40 p.m.) Ryan Van Wilgen,
Gerald Adinolfi

Member Absent: Michael Doody

Alternate Members: Harry Juniver, Dudley Harrison

Guests: Carol Zebb, Town Planner
Emily Constance, Patch.Com

2. Approval of Previous Months Minutes

Alternate Member Juniver made a motion to approve the minutes of July 11, 2011 taken by Recording Secretary Denise Prather. The motion was seconded by Alternate Member Harrison. All were in favor.

3. Unfinished Business:

None at this time

5. New Business & Continued Business

- a. Tax abatement program**
- b. Roses tractor pull results**
- c. Augur Barn updates**
- d. Greenhouse updates**
- e. Potato Festival updates**
- f. Members items to be discussed.**
- g. Visitor Comments**

a. Chairperson Potter passed out relevant information to the Agency. He has been in contact with Joan Nichols from the Connecticut Farm Bureau who has been very helpful. Member DeFrancesco stated that Chris Barta, Tax Assessor, has given the wrong information to the Town Council. The information does not list all the relevant farms in town. Town Planner Zebb explained that the hearing has been continued so Chris can examine the lists and materials provided and generate a corrected list according to the land records. The list of July 29, 2011 will need to be consolidated at this time. Town Council will weigh the exemption up to \$100,000.00. The Agency agrees that there is an accurate list from

January/February, 2011 of farmers who did or did not apply. *Town Planner stated that there have been many discrepancies on the information and the time for the Town Council to consider the proposal has been shortened since its regularly scheduled June meetings were canceled due to lack of quorums.*

Chairperson Potter also advises the agency that Member Doody recommends possibly accepting a slightly less amount if offered, even if it is not 100,000. If the proposed amount is taken, it could lead up to a larger amount the following year. Chairperson Potter, along with Alternate Member Harrison, shared an anonymous letter they received which contained a list of amounts given to farmers via grants. It is agreed that a special meeting will take place on Thursday, August 4 with the Agency and Chris Barta to go over information. Chairperson Potter will issue an Agenda.

b. Member Van Wilgen won the pull over Al Rose by three inches. The pull was good exposure for Al. He provided a tent for the bleachers. In the future, Al may get his own date for a pull.

c. The Town Crew is now short on manpower so this item is tabled for the future.

d. Member Van Wilgen advised that he has not heard from Ian. Water has been tapped into at the high school. It is City water that is being used and a chlorination process is in effect for evaporation and removal of the chlorine.

e. The tent will be going up at 6:30 on Wednesday. The chairs and tables will be set up on Saturday. Kevin Augur will be donating the pay loader. The following farms will be donating: Christoforo's, Diglio's and Augur Farm so far.

f. Emily Constance from Patch.Com requested a layout of the fair. The Agency referred her to Pam from the Recreation Department who has a copy.

g. No visitor's comments at this time.

5. Executive session

a. Personnel matter, in accordance with C.G.S. Section 118a (e) (1)

b. Action to be taken if any

No discussion at this time concerning this matter.

6. Adjournment

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

Submitted by:

Debra Ann Criscuolo
Recording Secretary