

**Agenda Minutes
Agriculture Commission Meeting
Monday, January 9, 2012
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 7:04 p.m.

Members Present: Ryan VanWilgen, Willie Dellacamera

Members Absent: Michael Doody, Joseph DeFrancesco

Alternate Members Present: Harry Juniver, Dudley Harrison

Guest: Town Planner Carol Zebb

2. Approval of Previous Months Minutes

Member VanWilgen made a motion to approve the minutes of December 5, 2011. Alternate Member Juniver seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0 – with VanWilgen, Juniver and Harrison voting in favor.

3. Unfinished Business:

None at this time

4. New Business & Continued Business

- a. November forum results and suggestions (continued)
- b. Tractor pull planning 2012
- c. Goals for 2012
- d. Augur Barn updates
- e. Seasonal display town hall updates (removal)
- f. Potato Festival (Ag. Comm.) 2012
- g. Members items to be discussed/2012 Budget

h. Visitor Comments

- a. Chairperson Potter welcomed new member Willie Dellcamera who is affiliated with Nelson Ceccarelli's farm. This year the Ceccarelli farm will be 100 years old, as well as Marge Newton's farm celebrating 100 years. The Agency agrees that both farms should be recognized.

Member Van Wilgen suggests printing a local calendar of all the farms. Town Planner Zebb will draft a letter to the local farmers to get information. Member Dellcamera also advised the Commission that the Historical Society wants to be involved. Alternate Member Juniver also suggests pictures of the farms celebrating an anniversary, as well as a published article, would be nice gesture.

- b. Current dates that are now scheduled are July 22, August 4 and October 20. Vinny from Braggin Rights has added Rose's Farm for June 9. Chairperson Potter will send confirmation to the members of all dates... Member Vanwilgen asked Chairperson Potter to look into the cost of the Commission purchasing its own ribbons/trophies.
- c. All budget items in the Town of North Branford are on hold due to litigation issues. The Agency will continue to focus on local farms and their history.
- d. The Augur Barn is currently undergoing electrical repairs. The electrical upgrade project was started on January 9 by contractor Joe Civitello.
- e. Chairperson Potter took the lights off the tractors. All items are currently being stored and signage has been removed. He advised the Commission that the tractors can now be taken away.
- f. David Hall, from Hall Rental, will provide the tent for the Potato Festival at a reasonable cost for the Commission. The tent is roughly 20 x 40 and Member Van Wilgen estimated the cost to be around \$400.00. Dennis Pannone will be made aware that Chairperson Potter is the contact person for the Agency.
- g. Alternate Member Harrison moved for a Motion to Amend the Agenda to add BUDGET to Item G. Member Van Wilgen seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Town Planner Zebb went over the Commission's proposed 2012-2013 budget which will be submitted to the Town Council for its approval. The budget amounts would remain the same as this year's budget. Regarding

the narrative, the Commission revised two line items: the tax abatement program was not passed by the Town Council due to fiscal budgetary constraints and the Commission will be continue to pursue; and it changed the date information on the two other held tractor pulls.

Alternate Member Harrison moved, seconded by Alternate Member Juniver to approve the proposed budget for 2012-2013 as reviewed and revised as discussed. All were in favor.

h. Town Planner Zebb commented on how great the Commission's photos on the website looked.

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

Member VanWilgen moved, seconded by Member Dellacamera to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 p.m. The motion was carried unanimously.

Submitted by:

Debra Ann Criscuolo
Recording Secretary

