

**Agenda Minutes
Agriculture Commission Meeting
Monday, April 7, 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: Gerald Adinolfi, Nelson Cecarelli, Joseph DeFrancesco, Michael Doody

Alternative Members: Dudley Harrison,

Present: Diglio Family, Rose Family, William Dellacamera

2. Approval of Minutes

Member Doody moved, seconded by Member Cecarelli to approve the minutes of March 2008 as drafted. Clerk, Debra Ann Quinn read the minutes to the Commission prepared by Denise Prather, Clerk. The motion was carried unanimously.

3. Unfinished Business

- a. Continued discussing commission work plan tasks

Chairman Potter passed out to the Commission the North Branford Agriculture Commission Goals and Tasks and North Branford Agriculture Commission Mission Statement. They read as follows:

North Branford Agriculture Commission Goals and Tasks

Goal

A. Maintain Improved Relations with Town Boards

Task

1. Mediate between farmers and state/town boards
2. Assist/advise Community Preservation Councils
3. Keep the public informed about the work of the Ag Comm.

Goal

B. Public Relations: Advocate for Farmers Issues and Needs

TASK

1. Develop a Public Relations Program
2. Enhance Nearby Neighbor to Farms Relations
3. Get a Local Right to farm Law based on the Existing State Law.
4. Create/Update Farm and Forest Map

Goal

C. Meet The Specific Needs of Farmers.

TASK

1. Find ways of making local farming profitable.
2. Assist farmers to develop a viable business plan.
3. Identify and help apply for any and all grants available to farmers
4. Develop programs for value added products
5. Survey farmers each year for their input and involvement

North Branford Agriculture Commission Mission Statement

The North Branford Agricultural Commission working with citizens, agricultural producers and public officials shall actively influence local policy to preserve and enhance agricultural land; support and promote a viable agricultural community; and educate the public about the benefits of local agricultural products.

The members applaud Chairman Potter on the good job he is doing concerning the Commission

4. New Business

- a. Potato Fest support and set up
- b. Barn Grants into review (information sent by Mr. Levine)

- c. Logo design and selection
- d. Adding tractors to the Memorial Day Parade
- e. Review Guilford examples of paperwork they used to apply for grants
- f. Start feasibility study for Augur land use and timing of events at that location
- g. Any items other members wish to discuss

William Dellacamera is the official representative for the Potato Fest. It will be expanded out this year and the kids stuff will be at the bottom. The spot would be the same location as last year and Bishop's will again donate the tent. This year the Commission needs to be careful with the setting up of the tent due to various power lines. Chairman Potter will touch base with Fran concerning the setup. Member DeFrancesco supports the idea of handing out coupons.

Town Planner Zebb suggests a "rough brochure" containing a map of stands and future stands in the Town of North Branford. A draft will be done within the next month, preferably on green paper. Also a poster with "Did You Know" so the public knows what is produced and grown and facts about what is done. A list needs to be provided to Carol, along with the data so she can begin her draft.

Chairman Potter spoke to Mr. Levine concerning various grants. He passes out website information that may apply to museum. A grant would provide 75% but it would require 25% from the town. Member Zebb states it has to be more than 40 years to comply with the rules. The Commission may invite Mr. Levine to the next meeting. The State of Connecticut is on board with these grants and they recognize how important they are. This grant will be considered an ongoing project.

Town Planner Zebb passes out suggestions concerning the logo design. It contains fields, mountainside, a tractor, trees and animals. The corn rows were cut down and it cannot be too crowded.

Member Doody moved, seconded by Member Cecarelli to approve the logo as Member Zebb proposed. The motion was carried unanimously.

Town Planner Zebb then passed out "North Branford Grown". It would be a town design. What would be needed is a banner, poster board and letterhead. Carol will tweek it accordingly.

Member Doody moved, seconded by Member Cecarelli to withdraw the motion to approve the first logo. The motion was carried unanimously

Member Doody moved, seconded by Member Cecarelli to approve the second North Branford Grown logo as Member Zebb proposed. The motion was carried unanimously.

There will be tractors in the parade. The parade route is ½ the distance this year. The Commission discusses where the tractors should be parked. A letter needs to be done to the VFW. Member Doody will give the relevant information to Member Potter to draft the letter. It was decided that banners would be on each side of the wagon.

The application needs to be put in by November for the Grant. This is the grant the Commission wants. The grant would be for refurbishing and the town can only go for the viability grant. This would be used to turn the barn into a heritage museum. No money is put up – “in kind services” are provided.

Member Doody moved, seconded by Member DeFrancesco to apply for the Viability Grant and Refurbish Grant as proposed. The motion was carried unanimously.

There will be no farmers market this year. The Commission, in the future, would like the farmers input. It could also be open to craft vendors and cottage industries. It also can be controlled as to who is let in. A Market Master will be assigned. A meeting will be scheduled in November with all the farmers.

There were no additional items. As far as the Executive Session, if anyone is approached by Ben Raynor of the Sound, it is up to the individual concerning his opinion.

5. **Adjournment:**

Member Doody moved, seconded by member Cecarelli to adjourn the meeting at 8:49 p.m. The motion was carried unanimously.

Submitted by:

Debra Ann Quinn

Debra Ann Quinn – Recording Secretary