

**Agenda Minutes  
Agriculture Commission Meeting  
Monday, August 1, 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 (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

**4. 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 Zebb states there have been many discrepancies with past town council meetings 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