

**Agriculture Commission Meeting
Monday, December 1, 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, Joseph DeFrancesco,
Nelson Ceccarelli and Michael Doody

Alternate Members: Dudley Harrison, Harry Juniver

Also Present: Town Planner Carol Zebb

2. Approval of Previous Months Minutes

Member Ceccarelli moved, seconded by Alternate Member Harrison to approve the minutes of November 3, 2008 (Regular) and November 12, 2008 (Special Meeting). The motion was carried unanimously, Michael Doody abstained from the November 3, 2008 minutes.

3. Unfinished Business

- a. Grand application progress**
- b. Augur farm barn repairs long term**

a. Grant application progress: Town Planner Zebb stated that the grant application was submitted. The application was written well. All the information the State is asking for is in the application. Town Planner Zebb will keep this commission updated.

b. Augur farm barn repairs: Member Potter mentioned this will be on-going and waiting for application to go through.

4. New Business

- a. Potato Fes 2009. Ag comm. involvement**
- b. Ag Commission portion of proposed P&Z draft plan**
- c. Farmers forum results from Nov meeting**
- d. Rosa DeLauro, how to involve her with achieving our goals**
- e. Discuss featured farms in local papers. Now in progress**
- f. Barn site and grounds cleanup. Fran public works**
- g. Members Items to be discussed**
- h. Visitor's Comments**

a. Potato Festival 2009. Ag comm. Involvement:

Member Harrison and Town Planner Zebb attended a Potato Festival Meeting. They are looking to improve it from last year. The following is what this commission would like at the next Potato Festival: tractor pulls in back field; tent for vegetables; more tractor displays and hayride across the river over the bridge. The dates are August 7, 8 and 9, 2009. Member Potter advised the commission of the next scheduled meeting; Members Potter, Dudley and DeFrancesco are planning on attending. Town Planner Zebb will be taking care of the corn and potatoes at the next festival, at least there a benchmark of what the festival may need this time around. Member Ceccarelli and Member DeFrancesco mentioned they have coolers to store the corn if needed.

b. Ag Commission portion of proposed P&Z draft plan:

Member Potter mentioned there is nothing to discuss.

c. Farmers forum results from Nov meeting

Member Potter mentioned the forum went well, was nice to see young blood.

d. Rosa DeLauro, how to involve her with achieving our goals:

It was mentioned it would be nice if Rosa DeLauro can do a meet and greet at the Potato Festival in the Ag tent. Member Doody said he will work on it.

e. Discuss featured farms in local papers. Now in progress

The Totoket Times, The Sound and the New Haven Register are working on publishing an article. The Sound will do more of a historical write up.

f. Barn site and grounds cleanup. Fran public works:

Fran has Eagle Scouts who are looking for a cleanup project. The Augur barn would be cleaned up. Fran will make the arrangements and supervision will occur.

g. Members Items to be discussed

Member Dudley asked about the display at the Potato Festival; Member Potter mentioned it would be more of the history on all the local farms. Town Planner mentioned doing an annually brochure. Hopefully more farmers will participate.

5. Executive Session

No discussion at this time concerning this matter.

6. Adjournment:

Member Doody moved, seconded by Alternate member Dudley to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m.. The motion was carried unanimously.

Submitted by:

Gina A. Cox – Sub-Recording Secretary