

**Agenda Minutes
Agriculture Commission Meeting
Monday, December 9, 2009
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 7:03 p.m.

Members Present: Joe DeFrancesco, Gerald Adinolfi, Ryan Van Wilgen, Michael Doody

Alternate Members: Dudley Harrison, Harry Juniver

Town Planner Carol Zebb

Town Manager Richard Branigan (7:45 p.m. – 7:50 p.m.)

2. Approval of Previous Months Minutes

Member Doody moved, seconded by Alternate Member Harrison to approve the minutes of November, 2009 taken by Debra Criscuolo. The motion was carried unanimously.

3. Unfinished Business

None at this time

4. New Business

- a. Ag Comm. Upcoming holiday events and displays
- b. Action on the Viability state grant
- c. Discuss featured farms in The Sound Newspaper
- d. Potato Fest ongoing info
- e. Filming of agriculture activities. Updates.
- f. Possible town land rental issues. Updates.
- g. Possible tax adjustment (farmer's taxes). Updates.
- h. Tractor pull needs, info and updates
- i. Open farmer forum, pick Nov. date
- j. Member's items to be discussed
- k. Visitor Comments

Members Van Wilgen and DeFrancesco presented tractors on the front lawn area of the Town Hall. On Sunday they were decorated accordingly.

The State Grant application is in. Currently waiting for approval. Two letters need to be sent out to Vinnie Candeloro and Senator Meyer. Town Planner Zebb will take care of getting these letters out and Cliff will circulate the letter to the Agency.

Member Van Wilgen's farm was offered to be featured in the Sound Newspaper. It is currently in its fourth generation. But the editor had questions about the article so it won't be run yet. The tractors in front of town hall will be featured in the December 17th edition of the Sound Newspaper.

The Potato Festival for 2010 is still ongoing. The meeting is scheduled for next Wednesday (December 16). The main concern is the race conflicting with the tractor pull.

After the holidays, filming will be pursued.

The meeting concerning possible town rental land will take place in January. Member Harrison refers to the Guide For Planning for Agriculture from the American Farm Trust. It makes sense at this point to lengthen the lease. Town Council is waiting for a report to set the guidelines.

Farming is currently going a little backwards due to the economy. Member DeFrancesco met with the new tax collector. Re-evaluations are going to take place soon. A request should come from the Agency and Member DeFrancesco should have it done by March. Member DeFrancesco will also schedule a meeting with Town Manager Richard Branigan in the very near future.

There is no issue with PVC rods in the pulling blocks. 24,0000 pounds are needed and currently the blocks are being stored with Member Van Wilgen. Braggin Rights will fit a pull in next fall. Member Potter will research ribbons and about eight trophies that will be needed.

A very small amount of farmers showed up for the Farmer's Forum. The meeting was based on education of the students and how to get them interested in farming.

Also it was discussed concerning nice signs for farms that donate to the Potato Fest. They would be hung on the side of the tent at the Potato Festival. Town Planner Zebb will get the minutes from the Forum out in the very near future.

5. Farm Friendly Facts

No discussion at this time concerning this matter. The next Council meeting will address the Executive Session of the Agency.

6. Adjournment:

Alternative Member Doody moved, seconded by Member DeFrancesco to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. The motion was carried unanimously.

Submitted by:

Debra Ann Criscuolo

Debra Ann Criscuolo – Recording Secretary