

**Agenda Minutes  
Agriculture Commission Meeting  
Monday, January 4, 2010  
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 7:02 p.m.

**Members Present:** Gerald Adinolfi, Michael Doody

**Alternate Members:** Dudley Harrison, Harry Juniver

**Town Planner Carol Zebb**

**Town Manager Richard Branigan (7:55 p.m. – 8:33 p.m.)**

**2. Approval of Previous Months Minutes**

Alternative Member Juniver moved, seconded by Alternate Member Harrison to approve the minutes of December, 2009 taken by Debra Criscuolo. *The only correction was a date change from December 9, 2009 to December 7, 2009.* 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. Discuss federal agricultural programs and how they apply to us
- j. Goals for 2010. Where we are headed. What we need to do.
- k. Member's items to be discussed
- l. Visitor Comments

Removal date of the tractors on the front lawn of the Town Hall will be discussed with Member DeFrancesco. The tentative date, along with Fran, will be January 7, 2010.

Photographs were changed out per Member Harrison's suggestion. The narrative was also changed which showed work was needed. A grant amount of

\$60,000.00 was submitted. The proposed budget was coordinated with Town Manager Richard Branigan and Anthony Esposito.

Town Planner Zebb provided the Agency with a Town of North Branford memo dated December 28, 2009 to Town Council. It will be put on the agenda for the January 4, 2010 meeting. Funds will be in place as of July, 2010 so the project would tentatively begin in September. Member Adinolfi will be the point of contact with Fran.

Tractors have already been featured. Another thought is Billy's tractor collection. A hold of a couple of months will be done at this time concerning articles on relevant farms.

Potato festival plans are still ongoing.

Technology needs to be refined. This item is still ongoing.

The matter is currently on hold. Member Potter will obtain information from Wallingford, as well as Member Harrison getting in touch with the Water Company.

No information at this time.

Member Potter gave date of July 25, 2010 for a tractor pull, which is prior to the Potato Festival. Member Doody will look into insurance riders each time a tractor pull occurs. Anthony Esposito will be spoken to concerning possible vendors.

Member Potter refers to the U.S. Small Business Administration information which he provided to the Agency, as well as NRCS News Release dated November 17, 2009. It is a follow-up from the Reservation Group.

The Farmers Forum was discussed. Middle School age is appropriate.

On hold for now. The Agency is on track and is keeping farmers in mind. Possible contact with Andy Bozzuto in the future may occur, who is always in touch with Rosa DeLauro.

Funding for the Joint Venture application is due between January 1 and January 31. The award occurs in February and it has to be a 50% match.

Connecticut Grown has to be the same size of the association. Town Planner Zebb provided the Agency with a memo of January 4, 2010 concerning costs, along with various color brochures. Member Doody makes a Suggested Commission Motion. Member Harrison seconds the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

Member Harrison gave articles to the Agency concerning younger farmers from the Farmers Bureau.

**5. Farm Friendly Facts**

No discussion at this time concerning this matter.

**6. Adjournment:**

Alternative Member Doody moved, seconded by Member Harrison to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 p.m. The motion was carried unanimously.

Submitted by:

Debra Ann Criscuolo

Debra Ann Criscuolo – Recording Secretary