

**Corrected Agenda Minutes
Agriculture Commission Meeting
Monday, May 4, 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 7:05 p.m.

Alternate Members: Dudley Harrison, Harry Juniver, Town Planner Carol Zebb

2. Approval of Previous Months Minutes

Alternate Member Harrison moved, seconded by Alternate Member Juniver to approve the minutes of April, 2009. The motion was carried unanimously.

3. Unfinished Business

None at this time

.4. New Business

- a. Lumber harvesting on town property**
- b. Farmer's Brochure funding and CT Grown Support**
- c. Discuss feature farms in local papers. Now in progress**
- d. Potato Fest ongoing information. Update from last few weeks**
- e. Filming of agriculture activities**
- f. Members Items to be discussed**
- g. Possible farm tours to local farms**
- h. Visitor's Comments**

Chairperson Potter referred to a letter and spoke to Town Manager Richard Branigan at the last town meeting. This is not a "dead issue", but it is just not economically feasible at this time. Lumber is just not worth much now. This item will again be discussed in the future.

Town Planner Zebb presents the Agency with numerous examples prepared by her of the brochure. They were all in a variation of print/font size with CT Grown on the covers. Brochure 2c was liked best and the Agency wants to make sure CT Grown is recognized as it supports the Agency. It was also discussed that another open forum will take place in November. The Agency agrees with printing the brochure on either green or tan paper. This will be determined at the next meeting when more members are present. The plan is to have the brochure inserted in the June 19 addition of the Totoket Times. A letter was also sent out to all local farmers per the Assessor records.

Ben from the Sound newspaper will contact Member Joe DeFrancesco concerning his greenhouses and flowering. Page's farm will be discussed to go next. Town Planner Zebb will provide Member Potter with the number of Page's farm. Haying would also be a good topic to report on for the Page Farm.

Member Potter refers to emails received from Pam Gerry. Ray Provini will provide his own 400 tractor, or drive one of Member Adinolfi's tractors. The haywagon will be provided by member Nelson Ceccarelli. A suggestion of \$1.00 donation was discussed concerning the ride. It was also discussed that no vegetables will be sold on Friday. Vegetables will be sold after noon on Saturday and sell through Sunday. Items will be covered by burlap bags overnight so they will be kept fresh. Bishops will again provide the tent and prior signs will be used. The Diglio and Augur families will donate items. The Van Wilgen's will also have tractors on site for the pull and fencing will be put in place for "crowd control". Ribbons will be given out for divisions. Member Potter will send to the Agency the relevant site for the tractor pull.

In the Winter filming will be more pursued. There are currently issues with the town cable television system.

Member Potter refers to a email left by Town Manager Branigan concerning migrant workers. If they become ill, they are immediately to report to UCONN. The Agency does not "police" farm workers and will not be getting involved concerning this email.

Possible local farm tours will be discussed in the future. It may be a liability for current farmers.

5. Executive Session

No discussion at this time concerning this matter.

6. Adjournment:

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

Submitted by:

Debra Ann Criscuolo

Debra Ann Criscuolo – Recording Secretary

