

**Corrected Agenda Minutes
Agriculture Commission Meeting
Monday, November 2, 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 7:02 p.m.

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

Alternate Members: Dudley Harrison, Harry Juniver

Town Planner Carol Zebb (*joined meeting at 7:10 p.m.*)

2. Approval of Previous Months Minutes

Alternate Member Defrancesco moved, seconded by Alternate Member Harrison to approve the minutes of October, 2009 taken by Town Planner Carol Zebb. 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. Who has what tapes?
- f. Possible town land rental issues, Ag. Comm. Input to town
- g. Possible tax adjustments
- h. Tractor pull needs, info and updates
- i. Open farmer forum, pick Nov. date
- j. Member's items to be discussed
- k. Visitor Comments
- l. 2010 Meeting dates

The holiday events are currently under control. A date just needs to be coordinated around the Branford Parade which is the Saturday after Thanksgiving. Ryan has a red tractor . .a green one is being provided by Defrancesco farms..

The Agency hopes to get funds for the roof at the Augur Barn. In the future, the Agency may need to look to Rosa DeLauro. November 13 is the deadline for the grant. A total of \$65,000.00 was submitted for last year. The project will need to be completed within one year after the receipt of the funds. The State needs itemized details. It would have to go on the November 10, 2009 Town Council Agenda. Richard left a message for Ronald Olson concerning the Grant. Alternate Member Harrison suggests pictures of the roof, just not the building. Member Potter will contact Town Manager Branigan to have it put on the Agenda and to have a resolution written up.

Member Potter heard from Sound newspaper. Fran Leskovich will be featured within the next week or so.

Alternate Member Harrison went to the Potato Festival meeting in October. He read numerous "suggestions" concerning the event planning for next year. The Agency submits info themselves as well as the festival.

Member Potter is working on the issue concerning vcr tapes. Alternate Member Harrison has not been able to find other vcr tapes.

Member Potters suggests a reissuance of the current lease for one more year. The Agency suggests not using American Farmland Trust and doing it on their own. Alternate Member Harrison got information from Weed Guard concerning bio-degradable products. Member DeFrancesco explained to the Agency his practice using special plastic, therefore leaving no residue. The Agency agreed that five year lease agreements are the way to go. PH is also very important for good farming. The person signing the lease has the decision to change it to hay. The Water Company was looking for a conservatorship easement, which did not go forward.

Town Planner Zebb will type up a letter to Town Manager Branigan concerning the leasing options in question. The Agency has a lot of information to digest and study. American Farmland Trust will be put on hold. Member Potter will notify them accordingly. A sub-committee was formed which includes Alternate Member Harrison, Member DeFrancesco and Member Van Wilgen.

Member DeFrancesco met with the tax collector. He gave Town Manager Richard Branigan the study. Every farmer has to apply for it. Member Doody stressed to the Agency that the State has issues with the budget and the next three years will be tight.

Member Van Wilgen gave information to Blakeslee. They will make the forms. It's a 24 block, and we can revolve them or borrow them. The size of the block will match with their metal forms. Everyone will pull equally. The estimated cost is \$2,500.00, but there is no charge to the Agency. We are not on Braggin Rights calendar for the Fall, but will be next year. Members Adinolifi and Potter will tackle the pulling sled issue.

The Special Meeting will occur on November 18 at 7:00 pm. Member Potter will issue an Agenda. Town Planner Zebb will do a Form 90.

The following schedule will be in effect of 2010, meeting beginning at 7:00 p.m. in Town Manager's Conference Room:

1/4
2/2
3/1
4/5
5/3
6/7
7/12
8/9
9/13
10/4
11/1
12/6

Alternate Member Harrison moved for a Motion to Accept the 2010 Agency Calendar. Member Adinolfi seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Farm Friendly Facts

No discussion at this time concerning this matter.

6. Adjournment:

Alternative Member Doody moved, seconded by Alternate Member Juniver to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m.. The motion was carried unanimously.

Submitted by:

Debra Ann Criscuolo

Debra Ann Criscuolo – Recording Secretary