

**Agenda Minutes
Agriculture Commission Meeting
Monday, September 14, 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 7:00 p.m.

Members: Joe DeFrancesco, Gerald Adinolfi, Ryan VanWilgen, Town Manager Richard Branigan (*joined meeting at 8:20*)

Alternate Members: Dudley Harrison

2. Approval of Previous Months Minutes

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

3. Unfinished Business

None at this time

Alternative Member Harrison moved for A Motion to Amend the Agenda to Discuss Appointment of Members and Discussion of letter from U.S. Department of Commerce concerning Syrup provided by Town Planner Zebb. Member DeFrancesco seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously and the items were added to the Agenda.

4. New Business

- a. Ag Comm. Vacancy, welcome new member
- b. Farmer's activity Columbus Day weekend at Honeywell
- c. Discuss feature farms in The Sound newspaper update
- d. Potato Fest ongoing information. New meetings for 2010, new info.
- e. Filming of agriculture activities. Who has tapes?
- f. Possible town land rental issues, from town council meeting
- g. Possible tax adjustments (farmer's taxes)
- h. Tractor pull needs, info, and updates.
- i. Open farmer forum, pick Nov. date
- j. Syrup
- k. Member's items to be discussed
- l. Visitor's Comments

Ryan VanWilgen was welcomed by the Agency. He was commended for his hard work at the Potato Festival.

Member DeFrancesco moved for a Motion to Reappoint Member Ryan VanWilgen and Member Michael Doody due to their terms being up on September 30, 2009. Alternative Member Harrison seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

Classic cars will be featured at Honeywell on October 12, 2009. The Agency was invited. Member DeFrancesco moved for a Motion to Give Information to the Honeywell event promoter to contact local farmers directly. Alternative Member Harrison seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

Pamela Johnson is now writing articles for the Sound. VanWilgen's will be featured in December's addition for their Christmas trees. It will be suggested to Ms. Johnson that Fran Leskovich's farm be featured regarding llamas.

Potato Festival meetings have begun. The next meeting will occur soon. A decision will be made in the future concerning a cap on donations of corn to the festival. Then wholesale prices would go into affect after that.

Al Rose was questioned about town property being rented to farmers. Member DeFrancesco will meet with Town Manager Branigan in the future.

Member DeFrancesco obtained information from the Farm Bureau. He gave the study to Town Manager Branigan for his review. The Agency needs to show the local farmers "a good step of faith". A total of 15 to 17 towns in Connecticut now participate.

Vinnie Geremia from Braggin Rights will provide Member Potter a tentative date (off season) for a tractor pull. A \$100.00 donation was given to Braggin Rights from the Agency. The pit is now a permanent fixture.

The tentative date for the Farmer's Forum will be November 18. Member Potter will discuss the date with Town Manager Branigan.

Member Potter gave the Agency a copy of the letter from the U.S. Dept. of Commerce concerning syrup. It does not apply to the farmers of this Agency.

Member Adinolfi addressed the issue of a potential fence being put in place on Totoket and Augur Road Extension.

None at this time.

5. Executive session

Will be taken off further Agendas per Town Manager Richard Branigan.

6. Adjournment:

Alternative Member Harrison moved, seconded by Member Van Wilgen to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m.. The motion was carried unanimously.

Submitted by:

Debra Ann Criscuolo

Debra Ann Criscuolo – Recording Secretary