

**Corrected Agenda Minutes
Agriculture Commission Meeting
Monday, April 13, 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 Present: Gerald Adinolfi, Joseph DeFrancesco,
Michael Doody,

Alternate Members: Dudley Harrison, Harry Juniver

Also Present: Town Planner Carol Zebb

2. Approval of Previous Months Minutes

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

3. Unfinished Business

None at the present time

4. New Business

- a. Spring goals of Ag Commission**
- b. Farmers brochure funding and CT Grown support**
- c. Discuss feature farms in local papers. Now in progress**
- d. Potato Fest ongoing information**
- e. Filming of agriculture activities**
- f. Members Items to be discussed**
- g. Possible farm tours for local farms**
- h. Visitor comments**

Member Juniver questions concerning the scouts' cleaning up of the barn. Member Potter will contact Fran concerning this matter. There are posts, lumber and hay that need to be cleaned up. A dumpster also needs to be put into place, possibly by Bozzuto's. The patch on the barn roof is also holding up at the current time.

Town Planner Zebb was notified via email that the Agriculture Commission did not receive any funds from the CT Grown grants. Only half of the 88 applicants

got awarded grants. Connecticut Grown has supported the Agriculture Commission in the past, including a Connecticut Grown banner, along with price tags. The Commission should recognize them for their donations. The brochure roughly ran \$500.00 last year. We will put the CT Grown logo on the brochure this year. Also we will use different color paper so we can tell the old apart from the new brochures. It was also decided the brochure should go out in June. The brochure will also be put as an insert in the Totoket Times. A survey will be sent out by the Commission concerning existing information or changes that need to be done. Also added will be a response/comment line including a notice/change in volumes sold. Carol will get out a letter within the next month.

Ben Raynor has helped out concerning featured farms in local papers. Member DeFrancesco's greenhouse will be the next feature. Diglio's farm was also suggest for possibly next spring's, greenhouse article

Potato fest info was as follows:

A cow chip raffle will occur with Andy Bozzuto's cows. Debbie Ferraro will be pursuing a petting zoo. The Agriculture Commission will keep their tent and a date has not been selected for the tractor pull as of yet. The hayride will occur and the Commission is still awaiting a response concerning access to the Augur Fields depending on the fireworks location and restrictions. There will be no horses involved, only tractors, concerning the hayride.

Filming did not work out this year, but hopefully it will in the future. Member DeFrancesco found films which we will get transferred to a DVD. He will bring these to the next scheduled meeting. Member Harrison states there is a lot of footage concerning the Town. There was discussion of possibly running the footage on Channel 19. This consists of town history. The Commission also agreed that they will be keeping their own film library.

There will be possible farm tours so people can see what is growing, greenhouses, etc. This will occur next year. Member Potter also refers to an article in the Record Journal involving Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro. She strongly backs up the farmers. It is not a red-flag regarding the article – just tainted press.

Member DeFrancesco suggests a tax cut for farmers. He explains that expenses are high and profits are down. Member Doody states it is on the Agenda for next year. Possible logging on Augur Farm and North Farms will be put on next month's agenda. Member Potter will be in touch with Town Manager Richard Branigan.

5. Executive Session

No discussion at this time concerning this matter.

6. Adjournment:

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

Submitted by:

Debra Ann Criscuolo

Debra Ann Criscuolo – Recording Secretary