

**Agenda Minutes
Agriculture Commission Meeting
Monday, August 10, 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 7:12 p.m.

Members: Gerald Adinolfi, 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 July, 2009. The motion was carried unanimously.

3. Unfinished Business

None at this time

4. New Business

- a. Vacancy on Ag Comm. Make Adjustments**
- b. Create resolution for Augur Farm naming**
- c. Discuss feature farms in local papers. Now in progress**
- d. Potato Fest results from this weekend**
- e. Filming of agriculture activities**
- f. Address possible adjustments to farmers' taxes**
- g. Member's items to be discussed**
- h. Visitor's Comments**

The Agency agreed that the vacancy should be filled with a member of the farm community. Town Planner Zebb pulls the Town Ordinance. Member Doody reads the relevant Ordinance which states a member needs to live in town. The Agency all agrees that Ryan Van Wilgen is a good, perspective candidate and at this time he is their first choice. Mr. Van Wilgen's name will be put on the Council's Agenda if he accepts the request to join the commission. Member Potter will call Ryan and invite him to join the commission.

Augur Farms Park is the name the Agency chose for the Augur farm naming. It needs to be approved by the Town Council. Member Potter will issue a letter to Town Manager Richard Branigan to write up the proposal concerning the new name. Joe Augur's land was 15-20 acres running to the river. Donald and Millie

Augur had the other larger portion of land for their farm. The Park and Recreation Committee has some control over the relevant fields. The name proposal will also possibly eliminate the name of Totoket Farms Park to Augur Farms Park.

Ben Rayner is done with his position at The Sound. He is being replaced by a "Miss Johnson". Page's was the last farm article done. The Agency will wait for the new writer. Member Potter will generate a letter to Ben thanking him for all his great articles about our farms.

The Potato Festival generally went well. Member Potter called around for more corn at 9pm on Saturday night of the fest. It was decided that for next year donations will be due on Friday or Saturday for corn. Each farmer will set a donation amount and anything after that amount will need to be purchased at wholesale price from our local farmers. A seeder will be borrowed to fill in the spots on the hills where the hayride wore out the grass. Next year a map will be done of the Agency's tent in the Potato Festival so members know where to set up. Every farmer will get a note that when they contribute to the festival that they can include a flyer that will only be given out at the festival.

Gene McMillan has tapes entitled "Making Hay" and "Marketing Garden" which can be reproduced. Member Harrison will get tapes to Member Doody.

Member DeFrancesco, not in attendance, will get facts and figures together concerning the tax situation. It will be tabled for one month, and then be discussed by the commission to see at what level it can be implemented.

5. Executive Session

No discussion at this time concerning this matter, although Member Potter was advised by Town Manager Branigan that this item has to be removed from the monthly Agenda. Another matter will be put in its place.

6. Adjournment:

Member Doody moved, seconded by Member Adinolfi to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 p.m.. The motion was carried unanimously.

Submitted by:

Debra Ann Criscuolo

Debra Ann Criscuolo – Recording Secretary