

**Corrected Agenda Minutes
Agriculture Commission Meeting
Monday, January 5, 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.

Members Present: Gerald Adinolfi, Joseph DeFrancesco,
Nelson Ceccarelli

Alternate Members: Dudley Harrison, Harry Juniver

Also Present: Town Planner Carol Zebb

2. Approval of Previous Months Minutes

Member Ceccarelli moved, seconded by Alternate Member Juniver to approve the minutes of December, 2008 (Clerk: Gina Cox). The motion was carried unanimously.

3. Unfinished Business

- a. Grant application progress**
- b. Augur farm barn repairs long term**

The grant application has currently been delayed for awhile. Town Planner Zebb passed out relevant documents concerning grants, memos and relevant letters. Member Ceccarelli is concerned there may no longer be funds available for next year.

The Grant application proceedings are scheduled to be reopened again in Fall, 2009. In a memo handed out by Town Planner Zebb, stated were the amounts given for producer and non-profit organization grants and also for municipality grants. The money was disbursed geographically throughout the State.

Member Adinolfi stated that a good "patch work" was done on the barn. He suggests that the boy scouts help out in the future. The barn definitely has to be "kept an eye on".

Member Potter suggests obtaining a positive letter from Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro concerning the grant application. This time requested in the grant would be a Phase I restoration to the barn, versus repairs to the roof.

4. New Business

- a. Potato Festival 2009 What is Proposed**
- b. Farmers forum results**
- c. Discuss feature farms in local papers. Now in progress**
- d. 2009 Timeline of events and plans for the year**
- e. Filming of agriculture activities**
- f. Members Items to be discussed**
- h. Visitor's Comments**

The potato festival progress is moving along. Members Harrison and Potter have attended various meetings. They both have stated that the Agency does not want to be involved with the potatoes.

Willie Dellacamera is currently working with Fran concerning the tractor pull. The Agency does not want to use hay wagons. Clear guidelines will be put in place ahead of time. There is also possible movement of the tent location.

Ben Raynor did an excellent article on the Neubig Farm. The Agency agreed that the next article should be on Harry Juniver and his son's maple syrup operation..

Member Ceccarelli proposed a Motion to do an article on Harry Juniver's farm. Member Harrison seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Brochures will take ½ of the cost if the Connecticut Grown emblem is used. Member Potter handed out information provided by William Dellacamera (Joint Venture Grants). The deadline is January 31, 2009 and Town Planner Zebb agreed to get the paperwork in progress.

Member Ceccarelli proposed a Motion to agree to between \$400.00/\$500.00 for a grant to match the funds for 2009 for the State of Connecticut Agriculture. Alternate Member Juniver seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

There are currently new challenges concerning the tractor pulls. There will be ribbons given for the tractor pull. Donations will be accepted for the hayride.

Filming needs to take place concerning the agriculture activities. Member Adinolfi is in possession of the 1 room schoolhouse and Member DeFrancesco has some prior videos concerning his parents and their farm. . They will share them accordingly.

Member Potter will check with the historical society concerning any other videos.

The February agenda will contain Election of Officers for 2009.

Town Manager Richard Branigan joined the meeting at 8:06 p.m. Member DeFrancesco stated that the sale of flowers at his farm will diminish due to the current economy. Branigan questions how town own land that is not farmed could be farmed. The Members agree that all the town land is being used at this time.

Town Manager Branigan agrees to have photos hung in the Town Council room as long as they are framed properly. This will start with some pictures in the Town managers conference room.

5. Executive Session

No discussion at this time concerning this matter.

6. Adjournment:

Member DeFrancesco moved, seconded by Member Ceccarelli to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 p.m.. The motion was carried unanimously.

Submitted by:

Debra Ann Quinn

Debra Ann Quinn – Recording Secretary

