

AGRICULTURE COMMISSION MINUTES (approved)

Monday, November 2, 2015

Town Office Annex

7:00 P.M

1. Call to Order: Ron Gross, Chairman, 7:04 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

2. Attendance: Present: Ron Gross, Chairman; Tanya Bourgoi; Peter Dean; Marianne Halpin; Mark Henderson; Carlene Quinn.

Absent: Bonnie Buongiorno; Kevin Staehly Emmett Lyman, Liaison, Office of Selectman

3. Mr. Dean made a motion to accept the agenda. Ms. Quinn seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

4. Approval of Minutes: Ms. Halpin made motion to approve the 10/2/15 Minutes. Mr. Dean seconded. Unanimous approval.

Ms. Halpin had sent the not-yet-approved minutes to Town Clerk Deb Denette. She will send approved minutes on Tuesday for posting on the town website.

5. Ms. Halpin announced that there would be a Holiday Market at the Grange on Sunday, 11/22 from 11-2 pm. Vendors are encouraged to participate.

6. Chairman's Report: Chairman Gross reported that he spoke with Deb Denette and Linda Zemienieski and confirmed that audio or video taping of meetings may be done. The Town Clerk will take the recorded minutes from the Agriculture Commission Secretary. Mr. Gross brought a tape recorder and cassette to tape the meeting and gave it to the Secretary.

Chairman Gross said we need to seat Ms. Bourgoi as Board Member Alternate.

The Chair read the Selectman's letter to Peter Dean. He then called for a motion to accept Mr. Dean to fill the 3-year position as Agriculture Commission member. The Chair will send an email to the Board of Selectmen to confirm.

Mr. Henderson asked about Members, Alternates. Mr. Gross responded.

The Harris Property soil test done by the Town is on the East Haddam Website. Mr. Henderson will report on the new soil test when the results are received.

In response to Mr. Staehly's questions at the October meeting about the budget, Mr. Gross said there are 5 line items in the budget. Postage, Communication, Travel. Balance: \$4222. A discussion about the budget balance followed. The Chair will find out more about the budget from the Selectman.

Mr. Dean reported that NHRHS faculty members Heidi Pease and Cheryl Mathiasson have recommended 2 students to us for inclusion at monthly Commission meetings.

7. New Business

Mr. Bob Casner, representing the Economic Development Commission asked if we could join the EDC in a meeting to help them further understand the Right to Farm and other regulations. The Chair appointed Ms. Quinn and Ms. Halpin to attend. Ms Bourgoi will join them.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

The next meeting of the Agriculture Commission will be held at the Town Office Annex on 12/7/15.

Audience of Citizens: Kim Barrows, Barbara and Robert Gaudio, Gina Weske.

Respectfully submitted,

Marianne Halpin, Secretary