

## **AGRICULTURE COMMISSION MINUTES (approved)**

Monday, January 4, 2016

Town Office Annex

7:00 P.M

Present: Ron Gross, Chairman; Peter Dean; Marianne Halpin.

Absent: Tanya Bourgoïn; Bonnie Buongiorne; Mark Henderson; Carlene Quinn; Kevin Staehly; Emmett Lyman, Liaison, Office of Selectman

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance 7:11 pm.

2. Approval of the Agenda

3. Approval of Minutes from December 7, 2015 meeting. Mr. Dean made the motion to accept. Chairman Gross seconded. Minutes accepted.

4. Chairman's Report

Chairman Gross will contact Mark Henderson.

5. Correspondence

No correspondence

6. Unfinished Business

a. Involvement of East Haddam school children with the Agriculture Commission;  
Peter Dean & Marianne Halpin: Meeting with Middle School teachers

Ms. Halpin met with three science teachers at the Middle School to discuss their past and future plans for studying agriculture.

The students maintain 3 raised vegetable gardens. Materials and labor were supplied by Ballek's and the Lions Club. Going forward, the science faculty would like to expand the number of gardens. They would like to have a September school garden-to-table lunch.

Discussion followed.

b. Soil assessment at the CCA; Mark Henderson, Carleen Quinn & Marianne Halpin.  
Report postponed as Mr. Henderson was not at the meeting.

c. Report from the EDC Joint Subcommittee Meeting, 12/15/15 at the Annex. This was an informational meeting regarding Right to Farm Act and poultry farming. Ms. Quinn and Ms. Halpin attended the meeting, as did Jim Ventres and (another gentleman).

Discussion was of the Right to Farm Ordinance of East Haddam, The State of Connecticut Right to Farm, and Connecticut regulations regarding chicken farms.

7. New Business - Discussed the need for a new alternate.

8. Adjournment: 8:07.

*The next meeting will be February 1 at 7 pm in the Town Office Annex.*