

AGRICULTURE COMMISSION MINUTES (APPROVED)

Monday, Aug. 10, 2015

Town Office Annex

7:00 P.M

1. Call to Order: Ron Gross, Chairman, 7:05 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

2. Attendance: Present: Ron Gross, Chairman; Tanya Bourgoi;
Marianne Halpin; Kevin Staehly; Bonnie Buongiorne;
Peter Dean; Carlene Quinn in attendance via conference call

3. Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of the July meeting were approved unanimously with
ammendments

4. Chairman's Report:

- Prior to this meeting, Chairman Gross met with First Selectman Walter to discuss maintenance of the Center for Community Agriculture. Mr. Walter stated to him that the town will start working on maintaining the property.

5. Unfinished Business:

- Prior to this meeting, Mr. Staehly and Ms. Bourgoi met with Bill Cross and Todd Gelston, members of the Friends of Harris, to discuss the feasibility of a greenhouse/ hoopouses at the Center for Community Agriculture.

A motion to write a letter of endorsement to the Board of Selectman recommending approval of the STEAP grant revision was made by Ms. Quinn. Mr. Dean seconded the motion.

Discussion ensued regarding the revisions to the STEAP grant. Ms. Bourgoi presented the current site plan for the Center for Community Agriculture provided by Jim Ventres (via Nancy Talbot in the Land Use Office).

Motion carried with Mr. Dean, Ms. Quinn, Ms. Halpin and Mr. Gross in favor; Mr. Staehly opposed.

- Chairman Gross made a motion to forward Mark Henderson's name to the Board of Selectman as the third alternate member of the Ag Commission. Ms. Halpin seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

6. New Business:

- Mr. Dean suggested involving students in the FFA program from the middle school and high school in the Ag Commission. Mr. Staehly offered to attend Board of Education meetings as a liason.
- Ms. Buongiorne reported that the high school has an opportunity board for VoAg students. Suggestions of how to improve agricultural education for students to be discussed at the next meeting.

7. General Discussion:

- Mr. Staehly recommended that a polycarbonate greenhouse be considered in lieu of the high tunnel in the plans for the Center for Community Agriculture. Chairman Gross made a motion to submit said greenhouse as an alternative. Mr. Dean seconded. Discussion ensued involving specific models and options. Motion carried unanimously.

Audience of Citizens: Mark Henderson, Lynn Branscombe, Bill Cross, Todd Gelston, Chris Staehly

5. Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

The next meeting of the Agriculture will be held at the Town Office Annex on September 14, 2015

Respectfully submitted,

Tanya Bourgoin, Acting Secretary

