

AGRICULTURE COMMISSION MINUTES (not yet approved)

June 6, 2016
Town Office Annex
7:00 P.M

Attendance: Present: Ron Gross, Chairman; Tanya Bourgoin, Peter Dean, Marianne Halpin, Carleen Quinn, Kevin Staehly. Absent: Bonnie Bongiorne, Mark Henderson.

1. Call to Order: Ron Gross, Chairman, 7:09 pm
Pledge of Allegiance

2. Approval of Agenda: Mr. Staehly made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Dean seconded the motion. Agenda was approved unanimously.

3. Approval of Minutes: Ms. Quinn made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Staehly seconded the motion. Minutes were approved unanimously.

4. Chairman's Report: New rules regarding discussion were reviewed.

5. Correspondence: None

6. Unfinished Business

a. Ms. Bourgoin and Ms. Halpin reported again about their meeting with Ms. Thody and her students at the Middle School to discuss what was needed for the Middle School vegetable garden. Ms. Thody reiterated that fence posts are needed. She would like help with digging fence post holes. She already has garden beds donated by Ballek's Garden Center and a grant from the Rockfall Foundation. She needs to complete the installation by September to be in compliance with the grant. The 7th grade students were very enthusiastic about the garden. FFA mentoring was also discussed. Dr. Gross said he would call Ms. Thody to arrange for digging post holes.

b. Mary Guitar, Editor of The East Haddam News wants Board members' individual perspectives on Agriculture for the paper.

Member of the Citizens present, Ruth Ziobron volunteered to write an article for the newspaper.

c. Ms. Quinn will continue to work with the Town Selectman's office on the website/Garden Plots.

7. New Business

Mr. Dean made a motion to ask the town to grant Mr. Henderson's request for demonstration gardens at the Town Garden. Ms. Quinn seconded. Approved unanimously.

Ms. Halpin requested permission to step down as Secretary and regular member of the Commission for 4 months, due to illness. Ms. Bourgoin volunteered to take her place as Secretary. The Chair will recommend to the Selectman's office that Ms. Bourgoin will become a full member for that time.

The Chair will ask for a change of venue for the August meeting.

There will be a Special Meeting on Monday, June 13, 2016 at the Annex to approve the newspaper article.
Adjourned 8:15.

Citizens present: Barbara Gaudio. Ruth Ziobron

Respectfully submitted,
Marianne Halpin, Secretary