

AGRICULTURE COMMISSION MINUTES (APPROVED)

7:00 P.M October 3, 2016

Town Office Annex

1. **Call to Order:** Ron Gross, Chairman: 7:05 pm Pledge of Allegiance

2. **Attendance:** Members Present: Carlene Quinn; Marianne Halpin; Mark Henderson; Tanya Bourgoin

Guests: Emmet Lyman, First Selectman; Tom Gilbert; Kim Barrows; Lynne Branscombe

3. **Approval of Agenda:**

i) Ms. Quinn made a motion to add a discussion of beekeeping to the agenda under unfinished business. Ms. Bourgoin seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

ii) Ms. Quinn made motion to accept agenda as amended. Mr. Henderson seconded. Agenda as amended was approved unanimously.

4. **Approval of Minutes:**

Ms Quinn made a motion to approve the minutes of the special meeting held Aug 25, 2016. Mr. Henderson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

5. **Unfinished Business/Open Issues:**

a) Involvement of East Haddam Middle School students with Ag Commission tabled. b) Discussion of proposal to allow beekeepers to put hives in the Community Garden. Mr. Gilbert, the interested party, answered questions about beekeeping and stated that any and all extraction of honey would be done off-site.

Ms. Bourgoin made a motion to support the installation of beehives by tenants at the Community Garden. Mr. Henderson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

6. **New Business**

a) Discussion of ways to improve soil at Community Garden at no cost to town. A standing Community Garden subcommittee was formed consisting of Ms. Halpin, Mr. Henderson and Ms. Bourgoin.

c) Jody Hunt, co-owner of Shagbark, would like to create a town-wide giant pumpkin growing contest and is willing to donate plot space for EH school students to use.

7. **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 8:08 pm.

The next meeting of the Agriculture will be held at the Town Office Annex on Monday Nov. 14th, 2016 at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Tanya Bourgoin, Acting Secretary