

## AGRICULTURE COMMISSION MINUTES (DRAFT)

7:00 P.M November 14, 2016

Town Office Annex

1. **Call to Order:** Marianne Halpin, Secretary: 7:01 pm Pledge of Allegiance
2. **Attendance:** Members Present: Carlene Quinn; Kevin Staehly; Mark Henderson; Tanya Bourgoins; Peter Dean  
Guests: Emmet Lyman, First Selectman; Jim Ventres, Planning & Zoning Commission
3. **Approval of Agenda:**  
Mr. Staehly made a motion to add amend the agenda to reflect a discussion of Planning and Zoning Intensive Farming Regulations ( not Farm Viability Grant as written ). Mr. Dean seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
4. **Approval of Minutes:**  
Mr. Staehly made a motion to amend the minutes of the October meeting to include the names of citizens present. Mr. Dean seconded. Motion carried unanimously.  
Mr. Dean made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. Mr. Staehly seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
5. **Chairman's Report:** In the absence of Chairman Gross, Ms. Halpin will chair the meeting. Ms. Halpin seated Ms. Bourgoins as a regular member in place of Mr. Gross.
6. **Unfinished Business/Open Issues:**
  - a) Mr. Lyman reported that per the town's insurance carrier's regulations, private individuals cannot operate heavy equipment on town properties. Public Works will dig the post holes for Mt. Thody's garden. This situation could have been resolved more quickly if Ms. Thody had followed proper procedure in getting the grant.
  - b) Mr. Henderson reported that because of CT DEEP requirements regarding "waste management", leaf drop-off at the Community Garden is not possible. Mr. Ventres has emailed the DEEP with a request for permission to use the leaves as soil amended. If the request is denied, public works can bring some of leaves at the transfer station to the Community Garden.
  - c) Mr. Ventres presented commission members with copies of the Intensive Farming Regulations and requested that commission draft a recommendation for "sliding scale" regulations using lot size as a determining factor. A discussion of current zoning regulations and issues ensued.
  - d) The recommendation regarding beehives at the community garden was acted on at our October meeting.
7. **New Business**
  - a) The Community Garden subcommittee would like to explore the possibility of organizing talks to promote agriculture education. Mr. Lyman suggested that we coordinate with Tiffany Quinn of Parks and Rec.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Tanya Bourgoins, Acting Secretary