

AGRICULTURE COMMISSION MINUTES (NOT YET APPROVED)

March 6, 2017
Town Office Annex
7:00 P.M

1. **Call to Order:** Marianne Halpin, Acting Chair: 7:04 pm
Pledge of Allegiance

2. **Attendance:**

Members Present: Marianne Halpin, Acting Chair; Tanya Bourgoïn, Mark Henderson; Kevin Staehly

Guests: Emmet Lyman, First Selectman; Jim Ventres, Planning & Zoning

Audience of Citizens: Lynn Branscombe; Kim Barrows

Alternate members Ms. Bourgoïn and Mr. Henderson were seated in place of absent regular members.

3. **Approval of Minutes:** Mr. Staehly made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 6, 2017 minutes as amended. Mr. Henderson seconded the motion. Amended minutes were approved unanimously.

a). Discussion of minutes missing from the town clerk's files. Ms. Bourgoïn made a motion to postpone approval of those minutes until more members were present. Mr. Staehly seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

4. **Chairman's Report:**

none

5. **Correspondence:**

none

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

a). tabled until Mr. Gross can be present

b). Discussion of possible revisions to the current zoning regulations regarding agriculture to address the distinctions between commercial, intensive and hobby farming, and between small and large livestock. Impacts of regulations on lots of different sizes, and in different zones was also discussed. Mr. Ventres will draft revised regulations to be reviewed at the next AgComm meeting.

c). Community Garden subcommittee tabled.

Educational Outreach forum discussed. Ms. Bourgoïn, Mr. Henderson and Mr. Staehly will be form the subcommittee.

i. Discussion of ways to establish a Giving Garden in town similar to the one in Colchester, from which 100% of the produce grown goes to the local food bank and is tended by volunteers. Discussion of possible locations.

7. **New Business:**

a). Mr. Staehly answered questions about the CSA event to held at Staehly Farms.

b). Mr. Staehly moved to go into executive session so that he could answer questions that pertain to business strategies used by Staehly Farms, ie "trade secrets". Ms. Bourgoïn seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Present in executive session: Mr. Lyman, Ms. Bourgoin, Ms. Halpin,
Mr. Staehly
Mr. Staehly moved to adjourn executive session at 8:50pm. Ms.
Bourgoin seconded. Motion carries unanimously.
There were no votes cast and no decisions made in executive
session.

11. Adjournment:

Time 8:51 pm

The next meeting of the Agriculture will be held at: April 3, 2017

Respectfully submitted,

Tanya Bourgoin, Acting Secretary

Attachments