



**EAST HADDAM AGRICULTURE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 3, 2018**

1. The meeting was called to order at 1905 hrs.
 - a. Present: Peter Dean, Bonnie Buongiorno, Ronald Gross, Ronald Distefano, Keith Wilson & Mark Henderson
 - b. Absent: Carleen Quinn, Susan Downs
2. The meeting was started with the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Mr. Dean and seconded by Mr. Distefano. The agenda was approved by a unanimous vote.
4. There was no opportunity to approval of the minutes from the previous meeting; the minutes were not available for discussion and this will be done at the next meeting.
5. Comments from the Chair: Dr. Gross asked that all present rise for a moment of silence to honor and remember President George H.W. Bush, who passed away 3 days earlier. He commented on how Mr. Bush would be remembered as an honest, ethical decent president and a loving and devoted family man, something that this nation could recognize and hopefully emulate as we move forward. All rose and a moment of silence was observed.
6. There were no communications to relay or discuss
7. New Business
 - a. Community Garden
 - i. The status of the tanker was discussed; we were unsure if there was water remaining, ad it was agreed that if there was, the water needed to be drained. Since he was going to pass by the garden, Mr. Henderson volunteered to do so on Tuesday morning.
 - ii. Soil improvement: the status of the soil and the need to improve it in rapid order was discussed. Mr. Dean brought up the mound at the Transfer Station that he thought was top soil, and was wondering about the possibility of moving that soil to the Community Garden after the site was plowed and harrowed. As previously discussed, the ability to move manure and animal waste from local farms to the site was discussed. It was pointed out that the manure and waste would need to be moved first, the fields plowed and harrowed and the top

soil moved in last. The Commission was unsure of the process to effect these moves, and Chairman Gross will call Mr. Lyman and discuss the issues with him.

iii. Further actions to improve use: it was suggested that one strategy would be to offer plots to those interested for free if they were 65 years old or older.

b. Future/viability of the lecture series: Mr. Henderson said that the previous lecture series could no longer be on the table because the person who had been scheduled is no longer able to do so. Given the number of activities that Shagbark offers the community, it was suggested that we discuss possibilities with Fred. Chairman Gross will speak with him in the near future. The idea of getting students was again raised; through the actions and leadership of Shaleen Thody, the middle school has their garden and was planning to expand it this coming year. We discussed the possibility of circulating a questionnaire to the parents of the middle school students to see what their three most significant concerns are regarding establishing their (home) gardens. The question would be, "What are your 3 biggest problems when it comes to being a successful home gardener". Chairman Gross will contact Ms. Thody and ask about the possibility. Mr. Dean talked about the FFA and its involvement with the commission, or its lack thereof, and Ms. Buongiorne offered to call the VOAG director(s) at the high school in hopes of enlisting their assistance.

c. Meeting dates for 2019:

January 7

February 4

March 4

April 8

May 13

June 3

July 1

August 12

September 9

October 7

November 4

December 9

8. There was no old business discussed

9. There were no comments from the public

10. A motion for adjournment was made by Mr. Dean and seconded by Mr. Distefano, and the meeting was adjourned at 2015 hrs.