

**East Haddam Agriculture Commission
Monday, November 1, 2010
Town Office Annex
Special Meeting**

Minutes

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:15PM
2. **Attendance:** Present: Dennie Burak (reg), Scot Mackinnon (reg), Jessica Marshall (alt), Harvey Thomas (reg). Absent: Peter Dean (reg), Jed Cone (reg), Peg Carlson (alt).

Chairman Thomas appointed Ms. Marshall to vote for Mr. Cone.

3. **Minutes:** It was noted that the October 4, 2010 meeting was called to order at 7:00PM. The minutes of the October 4th meeting were approved as amended.
4. **Liaison Reports:**
 - **P&Z, IWWC, Conservation Commission, Open Space:** Mr. Thomas reported that a procedure has been established so that P&Z and IWWC matters that effect local agriculture will be referred to the Agriculture Commission. Mr. Mackinnon sits on the Conservation Commission and will establish a similar procedure for matters that come before that Commission. Mr. Thomas will discuss setting up such a procedure with the Open Space Committee.
 - **Board of Education, Ray Board:** No report.
 - **Economic Development:** Mr. Mackinnon reported that he had briefed the EDC on the Commission's purpose and function. The EDC would like the East Haddam farm inventory when completed and will help support and promote East Haddam agriculture. The EDC would like the Agriculture Commission's help in supporting East Haddam's tourism efforts.
 - **Communications/Website:** The Commission agreed that when it has suitable material, that material will be added to the Town website.
 - **Connecticut Farm Bureau:** Ms. Burak reported that the Farm Bureau will supply advice, information, etc. and will help with publicity at the Commission's request.
5. **Farm Inventory Project:** Ms. Marshall has begun identifying East Haddam farms and agriculture related businesses. The Commission

agreed to begin by collecting basic identifying information (Farm/Business name, Contact person/owner, Location, Type of farm/business) and then decide what additional information to add to the inventory. The Commission discussed further data sources, including the Land Use and Assessor's Offices, and businesses and agriculture service providers who would know of people engaged in agriculture. Note will also be made of East Haddam residents whose agriculture operations are out of town and of near by agricultural businesses servicing East Haddam farms. Mr. Thomas will try to get the survey forms, etc. used by Colchester in conducting its 2007 Survey of Colchester Farms.

6. **Audience of Citizens:** Mr. Dylan Mackinnon was present and suggested several data sources useful for identifying East Haddam agriculture operations.
7. **General Discussion:** The Commission decided to concentrate its initial effort to completing the farm inventory rather than spreading it self too thinly.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30PM.

The Commission's next meeting will be Monday, December 6 at 7:00PM in the Town Office Annex.