

Agriculture Commission
Monday January 3, 2011
Town Office Annex
Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: 7:05PM

Attendance: Harvey Thomas, Scott Mackinnon, Dennie Burak, Peter Dean, Abby Polivka, Stephanie Lutz.. Visitors. Bill, Carlene and Ellen Quinn, Nancy Mackinnon.

Approval of Minutes... December 2010. Minutes should be amended to change any reference that the Students representing the Nathan Hale Ray High School Agriculture Department be recognized as voting members rather than contributing members. As pointed out by Chairman Thomas, only the Board of Selectmen have the power to appoint voting members. All understood and the minutes were approved.. Motion Dean... Second Burak.

Farm Inventory...It was suggested that we split up the initial search by geographic sections to expedite our inventory. We realize that there will be duplication but feel that this effort will move us forward.. We will present our findings at the February meeting and create a Master list.

Amy Polivka...North Plains

Harvey Thomas... Lake Hayward

Peter Dean...East Haddam

Dennie Burak.....Hadlyme

Scott Mackinnon....Moodus

Audience of Citizens.. The Quinns described their farm operation and their interest in any support they could receive. They are now raising chickens for meat and eggs and Ellen is focusing on Apple and Blueberry production. They intend to open a farm stand on their property in the near future.

Nancy Mackinnon suggested that we create a two paragraph statement that could be included in the quarterly East Haddam News and Notes. She also suggested an open air event in the Spring that we could utilize as an introduction to the community.

Survey Discussion.. Mr Thomas suggested that we peruse the Colchester questionnaire and prioritize the questions we feel will be most helpful. Mr. Dean suggested that we may have to create two lists.. One for large operations and one for the small "backyard" efforts.

Adjournment...7:45PM Motion Mackinnon, Second Dean

Survey Discussion... Mr. Thomas asked us all to go through the Colchester list and prioritize the questions we feel are most helpful .. Mr. Dean suggested that there may be two questionnaires.. One for large and one for small operations.