

**East Haddam Agriculture Commission**  
**Minutes June 6, 2011**

**Call to Order:** Chairman Thomas 7:20PM

**Attendance:** MacKinnon, Thomas, Dean, Marshall, Burak, Carlson  
Citizens: Nancy MacKinnon, Neil Marshall

**Approval of Minutes** ..As Corrected, Meet and Greet date was the 12<sup>th</sup>. Not the 14<sup>th</sup>... Marshall MacKinnon

**Meet and Greet Debriefing.** All agreed that the "kickoff" was successful. Some folks commented that they wanted more time to "network" but generally attendees were satisfied that the meeting met their expectations. There is an article on patch.com titled "Protecting our Rural Heritage" that sums up the experience. We all felt that we need a better way to communicate with our target audience. The suggestion of our own website has been talked about in the past and we feel it is time to move that issue forward. Jess Marshall will investigate the bandwidth availability on the Town website. If space is available we will request a link to our website from there that will allow easy access for the users. This website will initially contain info on resources available from the CT Farm Bureau and the State and Federal Departments of Agriculture as well as being a conduit for "I have XXX to sell as well as I need XXX. It will also contain our Monthly minutes and numbers to call locally for questions. Initially we will continue to use our email [EHAGCOMM@fastmail.net](mailto:EHAGCOMM@fastmail.net) for any communications. Harvey will continue to update our mailing list as information is provided.

**Farm Questionnaire:** Discussion centered around splitting the questions into categories, ie: Marketing, Planning, Data and Personal..All felt that raw data....Townwide Number of Acres in Farming, Number of Families etc. would be a first step in moving toward our goal of emphasizing the impact of Agriculture on East Haddam. Each committee member will review the questionnaire and return with our comments by the July meeting. More to follow.

**General Discussion:** Because of the lack of attendance or reply to any correspondence from the Chairman it was motioned ,Burak and seconded, Dean to ask the BOS to make Jessica Marshall a full time member of the Commission replacing Jed Cone. We will then recommend a a replacement for Jess as a Alternate Member. Chairman Thomas will communicate with the BOS.

Adjourn: 8:35PM    MacKinnon Burak