

East Haddam Agriculture Commission
Minutes July 11, 2011

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Thomas at 7:10pm.
2. **Attendance:** Mackinnon, Thomas, Carlson, Stone (Marsall)
Citizens: Nancy Mackinnon, Dawn Chapin
3. **Approval of Minutes:**
Corrections: Use Commissioner Jess Stone's married name.
Typo: "successful" not "sumailccessful"
4. **Liaison Reports:**
 - A. A VoAg student liaison is expected to resume attending Commission meetings again when the school year resumes.
 - B. Commissioner Mackinnon reported that a field trip to Hardwick Vermont is being organized. Hardwick has used local agriculture as a focus of economic development. The purpose of the field trip would be to learn which of their experiences could be relevant to East Haddam.
5. **Town Website:** Jess Stone and Harvey Thomas will be meeting with the Selectman's office on July 12 to learn how the Agriculture Commission can best take advantage of the town website's capabilities.
6. **Farmer's Barter/Swap Process:** We will probably be able to use a link between the town website and an Agriculture Commission website which will list items/services offered and items/services wanted so that individuals can contact each other to barter/swap.
7. **Meet & Greet Next Project:** Commissioner Mackinnon and Nancy Mackinnon have flip chart pages recording ideas and suggestions from the Meet & Greet. They will bring these pages to our August meeting at which time we will turn the ideas/suggestions into an electronic format which can be circulated and we can discuss which ideas we might next pursue.
8. **Farm Inventory Project:**
 - A. Inventory List: Continue working on acquiring e-mail addresses.
 - B. Questionnaire: Commissioner Stone will provide Commission members with a USDA survey form and Commissioner Thomas will provide suggestions for a briefer, less intrusive set of questions. At our August meeting we can discuss questionnaire format and content.
9. **Membership:** Thomas will attempt to determine whether Commissioner Cone wants to continue as a member.

10. **Future Projects:** We will work on suggested revisions to the East Haddam Plan of Conservation and Development taking into account of the formation of the Agriculture Commission.
11. **Audience of Citizens:** Dawn Chapin commented on farmers' market possibilities and the pros & cons of the Friends of Rathbun's farmers market.
12. **Adjournment** at 8:45pm.