

**Agriculture Commission August 1, 2011
Meeting Minutes**

Call to Order: 7:05 PM Chairman Thomas

Attendance: S. MacKinnon, Thomas, Dean, Stone and Carlson...Citizens..N.MacKinnon, Abby Polivka and Frank Polivka Jr.

Approval of Minutes: MacKinnon and Carlson.

Liaison Reports: Amy will check with Cheryl Matthiason on our second 2012 High School attendee.

Scott will go to the EDC for help with our efforts to market local produce. He will invite a member of the EDC to our October meeting.

Town Website: Linda Z. has all our info and images on a PDF file. It was the opinion of the Commission that we lobby for a link from the town website to our own website so that we can have the ability to administer it without having to burden the staff at the town office.

Farmers Barter/Swap Process: There is work in progress to create a consortium of Farmers Markets that could support each other. That seems to be the recipe for success. It would also provide a much needed venue for East Haddam farmers to market their wares.

Farm Inventory : Tabled until 2012

Membership: Harvey will continue his efforts to rectify membership issues.

Audience of Citizens: Jess spoke for Wendy Vincent from Patch.com about funds that may be available for Agriculture Investment. She will follow up in September. Jess also spoke for Deb Umba who is a member of the Haddam Conservation Commission and is interested in starting a Haddam Agriculture Commission. We will invite her to the September meeting. Deb is willing to issue a statement of support for a local Farmers Market that could involve area towns. The Commission also discussed the issue of Brian and Maria Hayner. They have purchased the old Linko farm on Route 82 and wish to market chickens, pigs and vegetables. In talking with them we found that if they had access to a website such as we are proposing, that could answer basic questions about the startup process for a farming operation, they could have avoided some of the problems that they encountered. All agreed that the website should be our highest priority..

Adjourn : 8:35PM MacKinnon Dean