

Agriculture Commission Minutes
September 12, 2011
Town Office Annex

Call to Order: 7:05PM Chairman Thomas

Attendance: Scott MacKinnon, Jess Stone, Harvey Thomas, Dennie Burak, Peter Dean...Citizens Abby Polivka, Frank Polivka Jr.

Approval of Minutes: As amended to read "Deb Umba will be invited to the October meeting". Burak, MacKinnon

Liaison Reports. **Scott** reported that he met with the EDC and they are very interested in helping us with our endeavors. They suggested that we piggyback on their communication kiosks for any info we want to make available to the public. Scott will invite a member to the October meeting.

Abby stated that an addition from the High School AG program has not been identified. She will check with Cheryl at the FFA meeting on the 29th. Peter will send an email to Cheryl as well...

Dennie and Jess reported on the Higganum "Go green on the Green" Farmers Market. It was suggested that if we have such an exercise that we limit the non produce vendors to one or two a session.

Jess and Scott reported on a trip they made to Hardwick Vermont with the Selectmen and the Chairman of the Board of Finance. They visited several farms with the focus being the local agricultural economy. There was much discussion around the idea of a "Community Agriculture Center" that could be located on the recently purchased Harris Property. One of the places Jess visited was in Burlington, Vermont and there they have divided some town acreage into small parcels that individuals rent from the town to grow and sell produce. This area is also the site of

the local Farmer's market. Jess will be part of an effort to bring this idea to the BOS. Much up front work needs to be done and the Commission soundly supported Jess and asked that they be kept in the loop as the effort progresses.

Town Website.. Jess reported that the Agriculture Commission has its own website....**EastHaddamAgriculture.com**....The Commission was invited to view the effort so far and suggest changes to Jess. The Town Office will continue to update the Town website which will include a link to EHAG.

Barter/Swap One of the pages in the EHAG website will be a "classified" section where farmers can post wants, needs, haves etc. The vehicle to post on the website will be the email address...**easthaddamagriculture.org**. This will be monitored by Jess and updated as legitimate posts arrive.

Multi Town Farmers Market. After much discussion it was decided that we should try to establish a successful market in East Haddam. We all realize that surrounding town have been successful in their efforts; Chester, Lyme, Colchester, etc., but we believe that with some effort, good communication, and the proper venue, we can be as successful as any. Obviously we would welcome anyone interested in attending and marketing their wares.

Farm Inventory.. We will continue to gather information, preferably email addresses and contact numbers.

Membership. An ongoing issue.

Future Projects...Harvey discussed the Conservation and Development plan..We will be a part of the final document.

Audience Of Citizens None

Adjourn 8:30PM Mackinnon, Burke