

AGRICULTURE COMMISSION MINUTES

Monday, March 5, 2012
Town Office Annex
7:00 P.M

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Thomas at 7:15PM
2. **Attendance:** Regular Members: Present: Jessica Stone, Scot Mackinnon, Dennie Burak, and Harvey Thomas. Absent: Peter Dean. Alternate Members: Present: Peg Carlson. Absent: Marianne Halpin, Linda Stuhlman. Chairman Thomas appointed Peg Carlson to vote for Peter Dean.
3. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the regular February meeting were approved with correction. The special February meeting minutes were approved as submitted. Burak, Mackinnon.
4. **Motion to Change Order of Business:** Mackinnon, Burak
5. **Ongoing Projects**
 - A. **Community Agriculture Center:** Peter Simmons, Economic Development Coordinator, outlined his experience. Mr. Simmons graduated from UCONN with a degree in civil engineering, has spent time in the Seabees and was employed by the CT DECD assigned to real estate oriented development projects. In the course of his duties, he was called on to interface with a number of other state agencies, including the state Department of Agriculture. Mr. Simmons outlined the state funding which is available to East Haddam for Farmland Restoration (which may apply to the project on the Harris property) and for obtaining development rights to farmlands. The Commission discussed a presentation of the Harris property project to the Board of Selectmen and other interested town boards and commissions scheduled for sometime in April.
 - B. **Farmers' Market:** The joint EDC/Ag Commission subcommittee had to reschedule its first meeting due to predicted weather. (They have since met and report making very good progress.)
6. **Liaison Reports**
 - C. **FFA Students:** None
 - D. **Other:** None
7. **Future Projects**
 - a. **Plan of Conservation and Development:** The Agriculture Commission's additions to the Plan of Conservation and Development were presented to and accepted by the Planning and Zoning Commission.

- b. **Chick Day:** It was agreed to have information available (updated and improved brochures) on Saturday, April 7 from 10AM to 2PM at Shagbark. So far, Peg Carlson and Dennie Burak are available to staff a table at least some of the time.
 - c. **Other:** Chairman Thomas outlined Pam Rubenbauer's concern that while East Haddam would seem to have many specimen trees, they are under-represented in the State's documentation of specimen trees. The Commission agreed to suggest to Ms Rubenbauer that The East Haddam Conservation Commission would be better situated to respond to her concerns.
8. **Audience of Citizens/Guests:** Lars Alquist briefly explained his interest in offering eggs and berries and eventually chickens for sale from his Cove Road property.
9. **Adjournment:** 8:50PM, Mackinnon, Burak.