

AGRICULTURE COMMISSION
Tuesday, September 3, 2013
Town Office Annex

MINUTES

(Not yet approved by the Commission)

1. **Call to order:** 7:08
2. **Attendance:** Present: Scot Mckinnon, Marianne Halpin, Harvey Thomas, Peter Dean, Linda Stuhlman Absent: Jeff Savitsky, George Scrivener. **Citizens & Guests:** Nancy Mackinnon, Peter Simmons (EDC Coordinator).
3. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the August, 2013 meeting were approved.
4. **Liaison Reports:**
 - A. Ms. Halpin reported that she had visited with Ms. Brenard at the Middle School to offer assistance with programs that could incorporate an agricultural component. The offer was accepted and Ms. Halpin and Ms. Bernard will work to incorporate Ms. Halpin's suggestions into class work as appropriate
 - B. Mr. Thomas mentioned that the suggestion of offering possible topics and mentoring help with Senior Projects had earlier been discussed by the Commission. Consideration of this was deferred until a future meeting.
5. **Ongoing Projects:**
 - A. **Farmers' Market:** It was reported that support for the Farmers' Market is dwindling and that the Farmers' Market Committee has not met since the meeting noted in previous minutes. It was also reported that help with events planning and publicity is still needed.
 - B. **Website Management:** It was reported that the web-site has not been updated in some time. The Commission discussed whether it needed its own web-site or whether Agriculture Commission

information could be incorporated into the town web-site. No conclusion was reached.

7. **Future Projects:** A list of possible future projects was submitted to the Chairman for future discussion.
8. **Other Business:**
 - A. Ms. Halpin and Ms. Stuhlman reported on a meeting with Mark Walter, First Selectman, concerning the role of the Agriculture Commission. Their concern was that given the formation of the Farmers' Market Committee and the lack of communication with or involvement of the Commission in the Center of Community Agriculture project, the Agriculture Commission appears to be an underutilized resource. Peter Simmons, EDC Coordinator explained that since the state authorized the STEAP grant quicker than expected, the planning for and management of the Center is in something of a catch up mode and that revisions and additions to the Center's draft business plan should help clarify how the Center will be organized and managed.
 - B. It was requested that the October agenda include developing a five year plan for the Agriculture Commission.
9. **Audience of Citizens/Guests:** Ms. Mackinnon offered help to plant food bearing native plants on the Harris property within the portion of the property designated for agricultural use and to use this opportunity to involve East Haddam school system students in the effort. The Commission reached no conclusion with respect to this proposal.
10. **Adjournment:** 9:05
Motion: Dean, Second: Stuhlman Approved