

AGRICULTURE COMMISSION

Monday, October 7, 2013

Town Office Annex

MINUTES

1. Call to Order: 7:00 pm

- **Attendance:** Members of the Board present: Scot Mackinnon, Chair (Reg), Marianne Halpin (Reg), Jeff Savitsky (Alt), Linda Stuhlman (Reg), and Harvey Thomas (Reg)
Members not in attendance: George Scrivener, Peter Dean.
- Citizens and guest present: First Selectman Mark Walters, Economic Development Coordinator Peter Simmons, and Nancy Ballek Mackinnon

2. Mr. Thomas read his letter of resignation to the Board. He left before the meeting resumed.

3. Approval of Minutes: The minutes of September 3 were approved.

4. Ongoing Projects:

- **Farmers' Market:** Mr. Savitsky reported that the Farmers' Market was successful this year. Attendees slowed toward the end of the season but this had been the case last year as well.
- **Education:** Ms. Halpin reported that Middle School Gifted and Talented teacher Ms. Christina Bernard had agreed to add local agriculture to the content of what she will teach this school year and would look forward to a guest speaker. Ms. Halpin agreed to forward a list of possible local speakers and topics.
- **Suggestions:** Mr. Mackinnon presented the list of 25 suggested projects that would fit the mission of the Agricultural Commission.

The East Haddam Agricultural Center (Harris Property) discussion followed.

- Mr. Mackinnon gave each member a copy of Illinois
- As Ms. Stuhlman had sent several documents about agricultural project business plans to Board members and to Selectman Walters. Mr. Mackinnon suggested that those documents might be useful as a notebook in the Selectman's office.
- Mr. Mackinnon (Agricultural Commission Liaison) and Ms. Stuhlman attended the September East Haddam Conservation Commission meeting.
- Ms. Stuhlman attended September meeting of The Working Lands Alliance (a project of American Farmland Trust) regarding farmland preservation.
- Ms. Stuhlman said that whatever the Commission decides, the project needs a defined business plan. First Selectman Walters and EDC Coordinator Simmons, and the Board agreed.

The Board should be able to formulate an expanded business plan within 3 to 4 months.

- Ms. Stuhlman said that the Board needs to expand the Agricultural Commission relationships with other Town Commissions.
- Mr. Mackinnon said he met with the Land Use Office James Ventres. The site of the building may need to be moved to a different area.
- Selectman Walters said that the architect could be selected soon.
- Members agreed to meet in an Ad Hoc Committee to draft the business Plan.

6. Meeting was adjourned at 8:30.

The next meeting will be on November 4, 2013 at 7 pm in the Town Office Annex.

Respectfully submitted,

Marianne Halpin, Secretary