

AGRICULTURE COMMISSION

Monday, December 1, 2013

Town Office Annex

MINUTES

1. Call to Order: 7:00 pm

Attendance: Members of the Board present: Scot Mackinnon, Chair, Peter Dean (Reg.), Marianne Halpin (Reg), Nancy Mackinnon (Alt.), Linda Stuhlman (Reg)
Members not in attendance: George Scrivener (Alt.), Jeff Savitsky (Reg.)

Citizens and guests present: Peter Simmons, EDC

2. Approval of Minutes: The minutes of November 4 were approved.

The 2014 Calendar was approved. The Board will meet regularly the first Monday of the month at the Annex at 7 pm.

September changes to the second Monday 9/9/2014

First 2015 meeting will be 1/5/15

3. Ongoing Projects:

Ad Hoc Committee on Business Plan for the Community Agricultural Center

The Ad Hoc Committee (Stuhlman, Dean, Halpin) continues to do market research on kitchens to clarify what is being done in New England with regard to processing kitchens in agricultural centers and private businesses.

Members of the Board agreed that it would be useful to have a Board meeting with commissions and town officers working on the CCA to have an update of what is planned and being done to further the CCA.

Linda Stuhlman reported that The Food and Safety Act and The Consumer Protection Act will be important considerations to the CCA. The Food and Safety Act may not apply to us.

Trips scheduled are:

Franklin County (MA) CDC (Community Development Corporation), Greenfield, MA

<http://www.fccdc.org/>

White Gate Farm, East Lyme, CT

whitegatefarm.net/

Palmieri Food Processors, New Haven

<https://www.palmierifoods.com/>

Brass City Cooperative

Waterbury, CT

<http://www.brasscityharvestwtby.org/>

The East Haddam Center for Community Agriculture discussion followed.

Peter Dean offered that the inclusion of young people in the CCA will give them a greater future in agriculture.. He will be keeping the Ray Board informed.

Peter Simmons said posts are being put up in field at the CCA.

The Board decided to ask Jessica Stone to remove the Board's website as it is old and no longer viable. Marianne Halpin will call her.

Marianne Halpin reported that the East Haddam Historical Society will have a new exhibit on the History of Agriculture in East Haddam. Charlie Farrow Farrow, President of EHHS, said that Jessica Stone has provided funding for collection of artifacts, reprinting photos, and signage. All are encouraged to add suggestions and are welcome to become involved in developing the exhibit.

6. Meeting was adjourned at 8:30.

The next meeting will be on January 6, 2014 at 7 pm in the Town Office Annex.

Respectfully submitted,

Marianne Halpin, Secretary