MINUTES
AGRICULTURE COMMISSION
MONDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2025
MUNICIPAL OFFICE COMPLEX
MEETING ROOM 3
VIA YOUTUBE LIVE
7:00 P.M.
REGULAR MEETING

1. Call to order & Pledge of Allegiance

- Aaron Called the meeting to order @ 7:02 pm

2. Approval of the agenda

- Shaleen made a motion to approve the agenda
- Ron 2nd

3. Discussion of officers & vote on Chair

- Discussion to promote Shaleen to a regular member.
  - Aaron made a motion, Ron 2nd.
- Discussion to promote Aaron to Chair
  - Ron made a motion, Shaleen 2nd.

4. Approval of the draft minutes from April 7, 2025 meeting (circulated by e-mail)

- Ron made a motion to approve the 4/7/2025 minutes and Shaleen 2nd.

5. Chair's report

- The purpose of the 12/1/2025 meeting is to re-organize the committee.

6. Correspondence
   a. Resignations via email from Commission members
   - Carleen - resigned
   - Bonnie - not seeking re-appointment
   - Mark - not seeking re-appointment
   - Ron Gross - resigned

7. New Business
   a. Discussion of recommending to the Select Board that current alternate members(s) be elevated to regular status
   - Aaron moves to appoint Shaleen to 1/1/2027 Board - he will follow up by recommending to the Select Board with the town.

b. Discussion of recommending to the Select Board that Aaron Taylor be re-appointed to another 3-year term (current term expired 1/1/25)
- Ron made a motion to approve, Shaleen 2nd

c. Discussion of recommending to the Select Board that Shaleen Thody be re-appointed to another term (current term expires 1/1/26)
- Aaron moves to appoint Shaleen to 1/1/2027 Board - he will follow up by recommending to the Select Board with the town.
- Shaleen can serve as secretary if Select Board approves her appointment.

d. Options for filling vacancies on the Commission
- Discussion about public outreach via the newspaper
- Shaleen will follow up with town leaders (Linda Z) to get approval to run a newspaper article and perhaps post openings on the town website.
- We need two more regular members and two more alternates.

e. Potential initiatives and vision for the Commission in 2026
- Discussion was to figure out membership first and rely on descriptions of our mission as a commission to guide our 2026 plans.
- Discussion about getting more involvement from other commercial people in town. Aaron will follow up.
- Discussion about reviewing the Town Ordinance in reference to advocating for farmers.

f. Review and approval of 2026 Schedule of Meetings
- Schedule for the 1st Monday of every month. Must meet once per quarter. Agenda needs to be posted 24 hours in advance.
- Aaron motion to approve the schedule, Ron 2nd.
- January 5th will be next meeting

8. Old Business

a. Property tax relief for East Haddam Farms
- Discussion about the advocacy role the Ag. Commission can take to help farmers.

b. East Haddam Farm Stand project
- Discussion about inviting Jim Curtin back in to give us an update on the project.

c. Ms. Thody

i. High School VoAg Program
- Invite HS in to speak at a meeting in early 2026

ii. Middle School Garden plans and needs
- MS Environmental/Outdoor Club was awarded Community Service Recognition from the CT Association of Schools.
- 1 of 20 schools in the state recognized K-12.

9. Public Comments

- Drew Hedberg and Charlotte Hedberg visiting meeting as part of civics class for Charlotte.
- They suggested using social media to reach out for new members.

10. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn by Ron @ 7:43 pm, 2nd Aaron.

Participants may view the meeting on YouTube Live at the following link:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLZq-CmatoKY6FW829c6mBA?view_as=subscriber

You may also access the YouTube Live link from the Town's website:
www.easthaddam.org