MINUTES
AGRICULTURE COMMISSION
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2020
MUNICIPAL OFFICE COMPLEX
MEETING ROOM 1
VIA YOUTUBE LIVE
7:00 P.M.
REGULAR MEETING

PRESENT: Mark Henderson; Bonnie Buongiorne; Peter Dean; Ron Distefano; Ronald Gross, Chair;
EXCUSED: Keith Wilson; Susan Downs; Carleen Quinn

The meeting was called to order by Ronald Gross, Chair, at 1907 hrs. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and the minutes were approved by all present. Mr. Mark Henderson (alternate member) was made a regular voting member by unanimous approval.

A motion to approve the previous meeting minutes was made by Mr. Dean, seconded by Mr. Distefano, and approved unanimously.

Comments from the Chair were made, and focused solely on the upcoming items to be discussed.

A July 29, 2020 email from Jim Ventres proposed changes to regulations suggested by the Planning & Zoning Commission regarding Hobby Farms & Intensive Commercial Farm Operations (forwarded to members via email with the appropriate sections attached to these minutes). The members of the Agriculture Commission reviewed and discussed these proposed changes in detail, and felt that they were much more appropriate and would allow for more people in town to be able to have "hobby farms" on their property. A motion was made by Mr. Dean and seconded by Mr. Distefano to approve the suggested changes. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Future plans regarding Stop the Bleed courses, sponsored by the Agriculture Commission and the East Haddam Ambulance Association, were discussed. At the present time, the American College of Surgeons has allowed these courses to resume, with the didactic portion given virtually, but the hands on portion has still been an issue because of the close proximity of participants and instructors. As such, most course sites have continued to hold off on resuming courses, and will likely do so until the pandemic is in the past.

The meeting calendar for the calendar year 2021 was discussed and dates were set. The schedule is attached to these minutes. The December 2020 meeting was canceled by unanimous vote.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Dean and seconded by Mr. Distefano. The meeting was adjourned at 1935 hrs.

Respectfully submitted,
Ronald I. Gross, MD, FACS
Chair and Acting Secretary

July7th:

The Ag Commission read and discussed the P&Z document that was discussed in February 2020. The members all agreed that the proposals were all appropriate, and were all recommended for adoption by the P&Z commission EXCEPT for the following:

Proposed – Hobby Farm – A parcel of property that does not contain enough property to set buildings that house agricultural animals one hundred (100) feet from the front property line and seventy-five (75) feet from the side or rear property line. A Hobby Farm is permitted to raise only small bodied livestock, poultry, and rabbits as a hobby and not for commercial purposes. See Section 29.3.A

We felt that the property border off-sets in this definition were too restrictive; these border off-sets would eliminate the ability for a person or persons who wants a hobby farm to house one or two horses or cows (or other large-bodied animals) for personal "hobby" or pleasure use. Examples of these people and uses would be those who show horses and/or cows at organizations such as AQHA, SNEHA, 4-H or FFA, to name just a few.

We recommend that the P&A Commission reconsider the proposal, and reduce the border off-sets currently proposed in the current definition.

July 29:

To all – Last night a P&Z commissioner thought of another amendment for consideration in allowing a structure for large bodied animals. He asked if it could state that a structure for up to two large bodied animals can be built forty (40) feet from the property line as long as it is located seventy-five (75) feet from any existing neighboring residence. Could you please discuss at you next schedule meeting?

PETER: Just 2 large bodied animals? YES. Was OK with that. Agreed with with the 75 feet.
BONNIE: for the purposes of what we were talking about – if you go >2 large animals defeats the definition of a hobbie farm. "This is a good compromise".

PD/RD Approved

2021 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS
AGRICULTURE COMMISSION

Board/Committee Name _____

Committee Chair _____

Chair e-mail address & phone _____

Recording Secretary _____

Secretary e-mail address & phone _____

Meeting Day of the Week _____

Meeting Time: _____

Meeting Location: _____

January: _____4_____

February: _____1_____

March: _____1_____

April: _____5_____

May: _____3_____

June: _____7_____

July: _____12_____

August: _____9_____

September: _____13_____

October: _____4_____

November: _____1_____

December: _____6_____

January: _____10_____, 2022

Submitted by: Ronald I. Gross **Date: December 10, 2020**