AGENDA
AGRICULTURE COMMISSION
MONDAY, MAY 17, 2021
MUNICIPAL OFFICE COMPLEX
MEETING ROOM 1
7:00 P.M.
SPECIAL MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 1905.
Present were Mark Henderson, Bonnie Buongiorne, RG, Peter Dean, Ron Distefano, and Ronald Gross. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Mr. Dean, seconded by Mr. Distefano, and passed unanimously.

A motion to approve the previous minutes was made by Mr. Henderson, seconded by Mr. Distefano, and passed unanimously.

There were no comments from the Chair.

Two emails dated March 18, 2021 and April 29, 2021 from Mr. James Ventres re: zoning questions that were previously discussed were read and discussed. The Town P&Z Commission had considered the recommendations previously made by the Agriculture Commission to the Town and had suggested that there be changes to hobby farm boundary distances. The Commission agreed unanimously that we continue to support the 75 foot boundary for hobby farms with large bodied animals, as was previously recommended when this was last discussed.

The members of the Commission discussed the concept of a permanent Farmer's Market, originally proposed by Mr. James Curtin. That concept was previously approved by this Commission and sent to the First Selectman, but top date there has been no response from the Office of the First Selectman. The Commission remains in complete support of the concept of a permanent Farmer's Market located on what is currently James Curtin's land adjacent to Towne Street, and the Commission would appreciate comment from the First Selectman.

The Commission revisited the garden project at the Middle School. It was agreed that the Commission should invite Shaleen Thody to the next meeting for a progress report and input from her regarding the needs of the school regarding the garden project.

The future of the Agriculture Commission was discussed at length, and in fact the question as to whether this Commission is truly viable was posed. All present felt that the answer was YES. It was felt that this Commission acts as a buffer between the towns' people and the Administration. We are problem solvers, but we don't really

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promote much. The question was then raised as to what can be done to "encourage" involvement by the First Selectman and the Town, and the decision was that we should wait until the new administration comes on board, and then engage aggressively. Lastly, Dr. Gross asked if the members felt that there should be a change in leadership, and the unanimous decision was that there should not be a change in leadership; all felt that the current Chair has provided the appropriate level of leadership necessary.

Future plans regarding Stop the Bleed courses, co-sponsored by the EHAA and the Agriculture Commission, will be in accordance with current guidance provided by the American College of Surgeons and the most recent CDC guidelines.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Dean and seconded by Mr. Henderson at 1958.

Respectfully submitted,
Ronald Gross, MD
Acting Secretary

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