MINUTES
AGRICULTURE COMMISSION
MONDAY, Oct. 2, 2023
MUNICIPAL OFFICE COMPLEX
MEETING ROOM 3
VIA YOUTUBE LIVE
7:00 P.M.
REGULAR MEETING

1. Call to order

a. Meeting called to order at 19:03 pm. Present for the meeting was Ronald Gross, Shaleen Thody, Bonnie Buongiorne, Ron Distefano, Carleen Quinn, and Mark Henderson.

b. Quorum present with three members - Ron Gross made a motion to elevate both alternate members (Shaleen Thody and Mark Henderson) to regular members for the meeting.

i. All members voted in favor. There were no abstentions and no Nay votes.
ii. No objections.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

a. 19:03

3. Approval of the agenda

a. Add discussion of meeting with P& Z

i. Ron Gross made an amendment to the agenda to reflect adding Ron Distefano's report from the meeting.

1. No objections

b. Previous Agendas Approval - Overview

i. Approval will be sent to Deb Denette
ii. Copies go to lawyer
iii. Three missing agendas: 6/6/22, 5/8/23, 5/16/23
iv. Missing canceled agendas

c. Motion to approve Sept 12, 2023 Minutes

i. Mark H and Ron D- 1st and 2nd
ii. All in favor
iii. No abstentions and no Nay votes
iv. Accepted

d. Motion to approve June 6, 2023 Minutes

i. Motion to approve

1. Ron
2. Bonnie

ii. No abstentions and no Nay votes
iii. Accepted

e. Motion to approve May 8, 2023 Minutes

i. Ron, Bonnie
ii. Correct Bonnie's name spelling at the top
iii. No abstentions and no Nay votes
iv. Accepted

f. Motion to approve May 16, 2023 Minutes

i. Ron motion
ii. Bonnie second
iii. No changes
iv. No abstentions and no Nay votes
v. Accepted

4. Comments from the Chair

a. Thank you to Shaleen for taking notes.
b. FOI - apology from Ron Gross regarding missing minutes.

5. **Communications**

a. Old minutes circulated.

b. Old agendas circulated.

c. Article from Aaron Taylor circulated.

6. **New Business**

a. CT Examiner article - forwarded to commission from Aaron Taylor (Ag. Commission member)

i. Right to farm discussed in article.

ii. Tax exemptions discussed in article.

b. Tax Exemptions for farmers from Aaron Taylor.

i. Review before the next meeting.

c. Ron Gross will invite Ms. Denise Dill as the tax collector.

7. **Old Business**

a. Ron Distefano reporting:

i. Discussion on Farming in East Haddam

1. Farm Stand - 80% your own product, 20% others
2. Farm Store - minimum 4 acres, 50 % your own product, 50% others from your
3. Farm Market - minimum of 8 acres, 50%/50% split.
4. Ron reported the following discussion at joint committee meeting

a. Farm stand- 80% raised on the property-20% can be for the sale of farm and garden products but must be Connecticut grown Farm store- 50% of the items offered for sale are products grown or produced on the premises , any other sales that are directly complementary to the primary agriculture use are permitted but are not to exceed 20% of the products and merchandise offered the minimum acreage shall be 4 acres of owned or leased property .30% of Products may be supplemented with products that are grown or produced elsewhere but must be Connecticut grown products. Farm market- 50% of the items offered for sale are products grown or produced on the premises . Any other sales that are directly complementary to the primary agriculture use are permitted but are not to exceed 20% of the products and merchandise offered . 30% of products may be supplemented with products that are grown or produced elsewhere but must be Connecticut grown products.

ii. Equine tack stores/riding academies

1. manure storage - best management practices 5 acres + is under discussion.
2. compost or ship it depending on the acreage.
3. Look at best practices

a. Best Management Practices for Your Horse Farm from the Most Simple to the More Complex

b. other towns - what do they do?

c. Ron Gross wants to protect the farmers in this discussion.

8. **Comments from citizens in attendance:** ***Comments will be limited to 2 minutes each, and this will be strictly enforced***

a. NO CITIZENS PRESENT

9. **Adjournment @ 7:32 pm**

a. Bonnie motion to adjourn

b. Ron D second

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