AGENDA
AGRICULTURE COMMISSION
MONDAY, JUNE 10, 2024
MUNICIPAL OFFICE COMPLEX
MEETING ROOM 3
VIA YOUTUBE LIVE
7:00 P.M.
SPECIAL MEETING

1. **Call to order**
    a. The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by Ron Gross.
    b. There was a significant effort made to connect to technology for the presentation before the meeting was called to order. In future, the commission should alert the town hall of technology use.
    c. **Attendance:** Shaleen Thody – alternate, Ron Gross – Chair, Ron Distefano – member, Aaron Taylor – member, Mark Henderson - alternate

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
    a. Conducted 7:04 pm

3. **Approval of the agenda**
    a. Ron Distefano approved the agenda for the special meeting on 6/10/24
    b. Ron Gross seconded the agenda.

4. **Approval of the draft minutes from April 8, 2024 meeting**
    a. Ron Distefano approved the draft minutes from April 8, 2024 meeting.
    b. Ron Gross seconded the agenda.

5. **Comments from the Chair**
    a. Discussion regarding the agricultural commission email. It was requested that questions regarding the commission be sent to the town clerk who will communicate with the chair regarding any questions. Responses will be made at the earliest convenience of the chair. The technology department at the town hall is working on the email.

6. **Communications**
    a. The Sustainability commission received Silver CT certification for Sustainability. This award looks at what the town is doing in terms of sustainable practices which include farming, efficiency and inclusivity. Our town was recognized for the farmland and open space preservation along with our Agriculturally friendly zoning regulations the commission just worked on over the course of the last year.

7. **New Business**
    a. The following Middle School Garden students presented their work and their future plans to the commission in a student-led discussion. The group was joined by the Superintendent of Schools Dr. Teresa Debrito and Assistant Principal Bridget Erlandson. Shaleen Thody is the faculty advisor to the NHRMS Outdoor Environmental Club. Please find a link to the presentation below.
    Presenters included: Tristun Mager, Riley Cooney, Elliot Novak, Scarlett Scott, Arissa Chan with significant contributions in the presentation made by Cale Laffan who was not

in attendance.

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1uhC9Yrs6PZGp51d4I7tiu1OfpsZi0mY3egd38zAcveU/edit#slide=id.p

b. There is a monthly Stop the Bleed Course: third Monday each month at 1900-2030 with cooperation of the Parks & Recreation Department. See Ron Gross for more information.

8. **Old Business**
   a. Ater 1.5 yeasrs of editing and re-editing and significant contributions of time from the commission it was reported that at a public hearing on May 14th the new Farm Stand/Farm Store Regulations have been passed.

9. **Comments from the public in attendance**
   a. Commendations given to the students by the Assistant principal, superintendent and parents in attendance.
   b. Comments from chair about the commission aiming to maintain the town's heritage as a farming community while promoting farming and praising the children for their efforts in upholding the mission of the commission with their work.
10. **Adjournment**
    a. Occurred at 7:31 pm – Ron Distefano 1st and Aaron Taylor 2nd

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