Meeting Minutes
AGRICULTURE COMMISSION
MONDAY, APRIL 7, 2025
MUNICIPAL OFFICE COMPLEX
MEETING ROOM 3
VIA YOUTUBE LIVE
7:00 P.M.
REGULAR MEETING

1. **Call to order**
   a. **19:01 Ron calls the meeting to order.**
   b. Attendance: Bonnie Buongiorne, Aaron Taylor, Ron Distefano, Ron Gross, Mark Henderson, Shaleen Thody
   c. Notes taken by Shaleen Thody - alternate member of commission

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
   a. Ron Gross

3. **Motion to bring Shaleen and Mark as regular members**
   a. Ron Gross motion to bring on Shaleen and Mark to regular members
   b. Aaron and Ron D both second.
   c. No objections

4. **Approval of the agenda**
   a. Ron D 1st
   b. Aaron T 2nd
   c. All in favor

5. **Approval of the draft minutes from September 9, 2024 meeting (circulated by e-mail):**
   a. Ron D motion to approve
   b. Aaron 2nd
   c. All in favor

6. **Comments from the Chair**
   a. Ron asked the committee to communicate to him when they cannot attend.

7. **Communications**
   a. **Connecticut Farm Bureau: Understanding Medicare for Farmers - In Person and Video Options. March 4, 2025. In-person or virtual. 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM**
      i. Communication sent out in anticipation before the last meeting that there was no quorum for.
      ii. No update because no one attended event. .

8. **New Business**
   a. **Aaron Taylor: Any new information from the RAC (Regional Agricultural Commission)**
      i. Database is being created of all the towns in the region and their friendliness to agriculture.
         1. Number of Farmers on town boards discussed
         2. P-90 tax exemptions discussed
         3. Examples for neighboring towns
         4. Aaron has helped gather information for East Haddam to contribute.
   b. **Aaron Taylor: Mapping East Haddam Farms**
      i. Aaron is gathering data for all the farms in East Haddam.
         1. Lauren Pszczolkowski made a live map
         2. Aaron found the live map and shared it
            a. https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/viewer?mid=1pFdKzkAR8Y9QdTNDNR-6-rSaIMJvWQQ&ll=41.48021459325641%2C-72.3989331&z=13

c. **Ron Gross: East Haddam Elementary School Ag Program**

i. Parent running a program at the Elementary school.
ii. Possible donation from the East Haddam Ag Commission to school programs in town in the amount of $250.
iii. Ron will contact this parent to ask her if she would like to come in with the kids and present in conjunction with the MS program.

9. **Old Business**

a. **Mr. Curtin: Status of the East Haddam Farm Stand project**

i. Farm stand project on town street is still in the works
ii. Legislation must be changed for the project to go forward. Strip needs to be given to Mr. Curtin because of the wetlands issue.
iii. The Wetlands Commission walked the property and approved the plan.
iv. Mr. Curtin wants the project to happen this year/this summer.
v. Grant writers will still be needed.

b. **High School VoAg Program**

1. Ron Gross has reached out and not heard back.

c. **Middle School Garden plans and needs for 2025**

i. Discussed having the kids back in to present next month

d. **Stop the Bleed Course: Available to all farms free of charge**

i. Any farm can ask for training.
ii. Available to anyone inside or outside of town.

10. **Comments from attendees – comments will be strictly limited to 2 minutes per person**

a. no audience in attendance

11. Next meeting

a. May 5th 7 pm at Municipal Building

12. **Adjournment**

a. **Motion to adjourn by Bonnie**
b. **Second by Ron D.**

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