MINUTES
AGRICULTURE COMMISSION
MONDAY, JUNE 1, 2026
MUNICIPAL OFFICE COMPLEX
MEETING ROOM 3
VIA YOUTUBE LIVE
7:00 P.M.
REGULAR MEETING

Attendees:

Commission Members:

Aaron P. Taylor (D), Chairman
Shaleen B. Thody (U), Secretary
Stephanie D. Cobleigh (D)
Rochelle A. Davis (D)
~~Ronald M. Distefano (R)~~

Alternates:

~~Patrick A. Capel (U)~~
Denise L. Dill (R)
Theresa B. Govert (D)

1. Call to order & Pledge of Allegiance - 7:05 pm

2. Approval of the agenda
   a. Rochelle approve agenda
   b. Stephanie second

3. Approval of the draft minutes from May 4, 2026 meeting
   a. Rochelle approve agenda
   b. Theresa second

4. Motion to add Jim Curtin to the agenda to talk about the farm stand project.
   a. Aaron Taylor motion to add Mr. Curtin to the agenda.
   b. Stephanie second
   c. Presentation of map of Town Street and Daniels Road
      i. Farm Stand with two entrances
      ii. Plot for the ambulance association
      iii. Already been to the wetlands commission
      iv. Goal - Donate the lot with the idea that it is a post and beam barn and a pavilion. Permanent location with bathrooms. Barn is not being donated, but the land is. Mr. Curtin is doing all the work on the land.
      v. The hope is that we can get a grant for the building. And there would be possible office spaces on the second floor of the barn.
      vi. Concerns are proposed with cost and the burden to the town. Could it be a multi-use structure?
      vii. Should we uncover whether or not we have a need for a place like this?

viii. Do we need to find the operator and a for-profit?
ix. Could it be a lot for the farmer's Market?
x. List of farm related activities in town - true farms - 10-12. Including hay, maple syrup, horse barns.
xi. Aaron has experience running farmers markets and he said in CT meat, veggies, syrup, honey - core people needed to run the market and who the vendors are going to be.
xii. Local produce will only be 3 months a year realistically.
xiii. Possibly use a local post and beam builder.
xiv. Probably link in Lauren P and the Heritage Market.
xv. Are there other structures in town that could be used for a farmer's market? Before building a permanent home for a farmers market.

5. Chair's report
    a. No correspondence to report.

6. Correspondence
    a. No correspondence to report.

7. New Business
    a. Community garden (Pat)
        i. Conservation Committee project for equipment shelter

8. Old Business
    a. Property tax relief for East Haddam Farms
        i. Proposed draft of recommendation ready for review and approval
            1. Teresa motion to send proposal
            2. Rochelle 2nd
            3. Amendment …..change exclamation to the period.
    b. Right to Farm & CT Grown street signs
        i. Proposed design and location recommendations ready for review and approval
            1. Teresa communicated with Linda Z. and we have to decide how many signs and where the locations are. Budget is $250. Possible discretionary funds to cover more. Will the Land Trust contribute?
            2. The state roads will take longer to get approval.
            3. Could we ask people to sponsor the signs? Perhaps ask in the newspaper.
            4. CT Grown sign. Permit needed for $50. Does not include the cost of the sign. Usually farms will pay for the sign.
            5. Send the selectboard the locations of the signs and add 156 location.
            6. Official Motion to send the image of the Right to Farm Community - Teresa/Shaleen
                a. All in favor
    c. Field Notes / East Haddam News
        i. First submission
            1. Submitted end of May
        ii. Second submission
            1. Include information about signage opportunities in the next submission.
    d. East Haddam Farm List
        i. Updates & Agro-tourism support (Stephanie)
    e. Heritage Market (Stephanie)
        i. Set-up a small table for further outreach in town.
        ii. What are people interested in and need from us?
        iii. June 24th

iv. Members can endorse and get involved in what is going on.
v. Possibly - Shaleen, Rochelle, Stephanie, Aaron

9. Public Comments
    a. No public audience present.

10. Adjournment 8:18 pm
    a. Shaleen motion to adjourn.
    b. 2nd Stephanie
    c. All in favor.