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Elizabeth M. Sullivan



Killingly Agriculture Commission
WEDNESDAY – FEBRUARY 13, 2019

Regular Meeting

7:00 pm

Killingly Town Hall, 172 Main Street, Killingly, CT
ROOM 102

MEETING MINUTES

- I. **Call to Order and Roll Call**
Frank Anastasio, Byron Martin, Virginia Keith
Absent without notification; Adam Hunt
Also attending: Adam Griffiths, Town Council Liaison; Ann-Marie Aubrey, Director Planning & Development
- II. **Agenda Addendum**
There are two items to be added to the agenda; Frank made the motion and Virginia seconded the motion to add the items; 1) Special Meeting Minutes under IV. B; and 2) Proposed 490 Survey Report under X. There was no further discussion, vote was 3 to 0; motion passed and those items were added to the agenda.
- III. **Citizens Participation** [limited to five (5) minutes per speaker for an accumulated time of no more than 30 minutes – unless extended by a majority vote of the commission members]
- IV. **Adoption of Minutes – review / discussion / action**
A) Regular Meeting – January 9, 2019 – Virginia Keith made the motion to adopt; Frank seconded the motion; no further discussion, vote 3 to 0; motion passes.
B) Special Meeting / Workshop with PZC – January 22, 2019 – Virginia Keith made the motion to adopt; Frank seconded the motion. There was discussion Frank believes it was Ann-Marie not him, that discussed the review done by the Town's Attorney. Virginia amended her motion to change the reference from Frank to Ann-Marie. Frank seconded the amendment. Vote was taken – 3/0 to adopt the minutes as amended.
- V. **Regulations – review / revisions / discussion / action**
A) Town of Killingly Zoning Regulations Section 585 "Agriculture"
Ann-Marie went through the review of the draft and the rewrites suggested by the Town's Attorney.
B) Borough of Danielson Zoning Regulations Section 585 "Agriculture"
The Commission members did not discuss this portion of the Agriculture regulations.
C) Next Workshop with PZC – **TUESDAY, February 19, 2019**
- VI. **Real Estate Parcels Classified under Section 490 – review / discussion / action**
A) Start discussion regarding survey questions, etc.
Virginia Keith had started to develop survey questions to send out to owners. The commission members determined that questions should stay as simple – yes / no / maybe – answers. That very few should require lengthy comments to answer them. Ann-Marie said she would have Jonathan review the questions, as he recently developed the on line survey for the P.O.C.D. Frank and Byron thanked Virginia for her effort to get this process going.
- VII. **Plan of Conservation and Development – review/discussion/action**
There was nothing new to report at this time.

VIII. Reports / General Business – review / discussion /action

A) Classes –

* Byron will hold another bee keeping class this Saturday, February 16, 2019, to discuss how to keep bee hives alive and flourishing.

* There was talk about what other classes the AG COMM could possibly offer this spring, summer and fall;

* growing strawberries – maybe some time in June – Adam to ask Sandy Eggers;

* maple syrup – Ann-Marie to ask Randy Burchard (maybe a class for next year);

* forester class – what does someone need to do to maintain a healthy forest – Frank to check into;

* composting class – question of who the teacher could be for this one;

* do we want a “jams and jellies” class – how do we can them;

C) Other Events –

There is a dinner at the Grange – a fish fry – some Friday during Lent

D) Open Space Land Acquisition Committee / Farmland Inventory – meeting / progress report

There was nothing new to report at this time.

E) Mother Nature’s Garden – meeting / progress report

They are still trying to get things ready for spring – trying to plan work on the following gardens – Veteran’s Garden; Pollinator Garden (wall garden); Linda Walden’s Memorial Garden (will be maintained by her family and friends); spring clean-up on the two rain gardens put in by ECCD and local area students; still working on the pump to get water from the river for the Water Street Gardens. They are still waiting to hear from the Petit Foundation regarding Michaela’s Garden at the Library.

F) Killingly Community Garden – meeting / review / discussion / action

Byron and Frank discussed the community garden after Ann-Marie read some of the comments from the KCG Board Members: They are concerned about the following – want an accurate job description for the Garden Coordinator; also want an accurate description of what the board members (volunteers) are going to be doing to keep the garden moving forward. Example: If there is a problem at the garden how and when will it be handled, and who is going to handle it; what is the volunteer schedule to actually do work at the garden; feels the garden needs more specific structure; the AG COMM wants the board members / volunteers to show their schedule of work completed at the garden; how will the gardeners get their questions answered? Who will be available for them? It was decided to ask the KCG board members to attend the March 13, 2019 meeting so these matters could be discussed with them directly.

G) Tomato Festival – meeting / progress report

First meeting for the tomato festival is Tuesday, March 26, 2019 at 5:00 pm in the Planning and Development Office.

H) Green News Newsletter – meeting / progress report

There is nothing new to report at this time.

IX. Town Council Liaison Report – meeting / progress report

Kevin Kerttula gave his report. The new Town Manager is scheduled to start March 11, 2019 it is Mary Calorio. The ordinance subcommittee met to discuss various proposed changes – constabulary, and the blight ordinance. Discussion of a possible pay raise for the Town Council members from \$700 to \$1500 per year.

X. Other Items – review/discussion/action

Frank discussed the attendance at the showing of his agriculture film – there were approximately 20 people attending at the recreation center, and approximately 25 people saw the film at the library. Mr. Griffiths asked Frank to show the film at the Grange some Friday during Lent.

Virginia discussed the next steps she has to take to request funding for the Westfield Farmers Market. She said she sent a copy to both Paul Hopkins and Mary Calorio – to request approximately \$1500.00 for marketing for the Farmers Market.

XI. Next Meeting – Regular Meeting – FEBRUARY 13, 2019 – review/discussion/action

XII. Adjournment – Virginia motion to adjourn, Frank seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned @ 9:51 pm.