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**Killingly Agriculture Commission**

**WEDNESDAY – APRIL 10, 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**  
Attending: Byron Martin, Frank Anastasio, Amelia Kellner  
Absent with Notice: Virginia Keith; absent without notice: Adam Hunt  
Also attending: Ann-Marie Aubrey, Director Planning and Development; Adam Griffiths, Town Council Liaison;  
Killingly Community Garden Members Attending: Jess Porzuczyk and Heather Goodier
- II. **Agenda Addendum**  
None
- 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]  
**Motion was made to open the floor to allow the KCG Members to participate where appropriate – Motion Made by Frank Anastasio, seconded by Amelia Kellner, no discussion, vote 3 to 0, motion passed.**
- IV. **Adoption of Minutes – review / discussion / action**  
A) Regular Meeting – March 13, 2019 – Motion made by Frank, seconded by Amelia, no discussion, vote 3/0, minutes were adopted.  
B) Meeting at/with planning zoning commission – February 19, 2019 – Motion made by Frank, seconded by Amelia, no discussion, vote 3/0, minutes were adopted.  
C) Meeting at/with planning zoning commission – March 18, 2019 – Motion made by Frank, seconded by Amelia, no discussion, vote 3/0, minutes were adopted.
- V. **Regulations – review / revisions / discussion / action**  
A) Town of Killingly Zoning Regulations Section 585 “Agriculture” – review of “final draft”  
\* Note: Scheduled for PZC public hearing on April 15, 2019  
B) Borough of Danielson Zoning Regulations Section 585 “Agriculture” – review of “draft changes”  
\* Note: Next workshop with PZC – April 15, 2019  
The items above were mentioned during the meeting to allow everyone to be up to date on the status of the proposed regulation revisions. No discussion, no motions.
- VI. **Real Estate Parcels Classified under Section 490 – review / discussion / action**  
A) Continue discussion regarding survey questions, etc.  
It was requested that Ann-Marie send an “email” copy to all commission members before the next meeting.
- VII. **Reports / General Business – review / discussion / action**  
A) **Classes** – Last month the commission had a brainstorm session regarding the proposed classes.  
\* It was noted that the Library had started a seed saving and exchange program, a flyer was shown to the commission members regarding. Frank stated that he would consider doing a “seed growing class” at the library, and that he would contact Virginia Keith to possibly help out.

**B) Other Events –**

\* Spring Festival – Will be occurring on Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup> in downtown, Frank and Byron noted that even though it would be nice to have AG COMM booth at the festival, May is a very busy month for farmers; and at present it appears that no-one would be available to run such a booth.

\*K.C.G. – Have scheduled work days for April 14 and May 12; and their planting day is Saturday, May 25<sup>th</sup>.

\*Second Saturday – someone noted that they had seen this on Facebook. Second Saturday is something that a group of KBA members are working on. It is supposed to occur on the Second Saturday (starting with the Spring Fest) from May through September. It was advised that people watch and listen for further information.

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

Ann-Marie reported that OSLA did not have a meeting last month.

**D) Mother Nature's Garden – meeting / progress report**

It was reported that MNG was trying to schedule a garden clean-up for Water Street, possibly with Killingly Vo-Ag Students.

**E) Killingly Community Garden – meeting / review / discussion / action**

Jess and Heather from the KCG discussed the following with the AG COMM members.

\* Discussion of job description for 'garden coordinator' and 'volunteer board members'

Jess and Heather stated that KCG thought it would be best if the Garden Coordinator (GC) was just focused on being a communicator, act as a central hub for information, answer emails (questions) and keep people connected, the GC would attend events. They thought it would be a perfect situation for a retired person.

Frank responded that people on the committee (KCG) could handle the email issues; he felt there was a need for someone to assist with the gardening part; there needs to be a consistent person to let people know what is going on; there should be classes for new gardeners, assistance should be offered; someone needs to check on the garden. Frank and Byron felt that the GC should have some gardening experience.

Jess and Heather stated there will be group work days on the second Sunday of every month where the committee members would be available for the gardeners to ask questions of. Stated that at present they have five (5) committee members, and that their schedule required one of the members to check on the garden during a particular week; often the volunteers are putting in seven (7) hours of volunteer time per week.

Byron stressed that their mission, or goal, should be to get the garden working and to get people engaged. They need to draw people in, there are approximately 10 or 11 beds and each should have a gardener planting, working, and caring for them. They need to find people that will get (and stay) engaged in the garden.

A few items were brought up for staff to check into:

- Research the information for a new water tank, cost, etc.
- Check into getting a hose connection to school building; a straight hose connection (not necessarily a connection to the "sprinkler system" currently in the garden) so gardeners can connect a hose and water their individual gardens.

**Motions:**

- Frank made a motion to approve the stipend for a 2019 Garden Coordinator of \$599.00; Amelia seconded the motion, no discussion, vote 3/0, motion passed.
- Frank made a motion to allow Staff to have published an advertisement for one week in both the Turnpike Buyer and Shoppers Guide to publicize the GC position, and said cost for advertising should not exceed \$140.00; Amelia seconded the motion, no discussion, vote 3/0, motion passed.
- \* Open floor for KCG members to take part in the discussion – Note, this was done at the beginning of the meeting.

Due to the limited amount of time that Adam Griffiths could stay at the meeting, a motion was made to allow Adam to give his report (VIII. Below) before the AG COMM continued on with the agenda. Frank made the motion, Amelia seconded the motion, no discussion, vote 3/0, motion passed. (NOTE: so even though the minutes continue on – please note that the Town Council Liaison Report was given prior to F) Tomato Festival and G) Green News Newsletter updates listed below.)

**F) Tomato Festival – meeting / progress report**

Frank gave an update, the craft vendor application for 2019 must be put on the website (both AG COMM and the Tomato Festival Website); asked staff to make sure they forwarded the craft vendor application to Frank. Also,

there was some discussion of Amelia's proposed new contest for 2019 – Amelia's contest may replace the tomato art contest.

**G) Green News Newsletter – meeting / progress report**

Frank has not published an updated newsletter recently. He would like to get a newsletter out before Spring Fest. There was discussion with Amelia if she would be interested in helping with the newsletter; she said she could possibly write an article for the newsletter. Frank would also like to show Amelia how to actually publish the newsletter. Amelia and Frank will discuss that possibility.

**VIII. Town Council Liaison Report – meeting / progress report**

Adam reported that the Town Council reviewed some capital projects for the budget.

There was some discussion regarding gas and water lines being brought to the high school.

There was also a discussion to increase the Town Council's stipends from \$750.00 per year to \$1500.00 per year.

**IX. Other Items – review/discussion/action**

No one had anything to add at this point.

**X. Next Meeting – Regular Meeting – MAY 8, 2019 – review/discussion/action**

**XI. Adjournment**

Frank made a motion to adjourn, Amelia seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:40 pm.