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Elizabeth M. Wilson



Killingly Agriculture Commission

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11, 2018

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: Frank Anastasio, Byron Martin, Chris Shaw, Virginia Keith, Adam Hunt*

Absent without notification: Christina M. Salisbury

Also Attending: Adam Griffiths, Town Council Liaison; and Ann-Marie Aubrey, Director of Planning and Development

*Frank noted that Adam Hunt was appointed by the Town Council to become a full member of the AG COMM. Adam still needs to get sworn in by the Town Clerk.

II. Agenda Addendum

None

III. Public Hearings (as called)

None

IV. 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]

None

V. Adoption of Minutes – review / discussion / action

A) Regular Meeting of February 14, 2018 – Byron Martin made a motion to adopt the minutes of 02/14/2018; Virginia Keith seconded; no further discussion; vote was 4 to 0; motion passes.

B) Regular Meeting of March 14, 2018 was cancelled – no minutes – no need to vote.

VI. General Business – review / discussion / action

A) 2017 Event Planning – Activities, ETC.

1) Classes

Frank will do a vegetable growing class; asked Ann-Marie to schedule the library meeting room for any night for the first week of May (April 30, May 1, 2,3); Frank will put an ad together and send it Ann-Marie for publication; would like the room reserved for 6:30 pm / 7:00 pm; discussion ensued about ad publication.

Virginia is willing to do a class regarding poultry (chicks) sometime in the middle of June; on a Saturday afternoon; she will do it at her farm.

Byron mentioned that Logee's Summer Solstice probably around Saturday June 16th or June 23rd.

2) Other Events

Frank and others received an invitation from the Killingly Grange to attend a spaghetti dinner at 5:30. The Grange is trying to gather together people in farming. Trying to revitalize the Grange and want to know the best way to do so. There will be various speakers at the event.

NOTED: Spring Festival will take place on Saturday, May 19th, 2018 – wanted to make sure the people knew that the event could affect the Farmers' Market – via the road race, the parade, and other activities that were planned in Davis Park.

B) Open Space Land Acquisition Committee / Farmland Inventory

There was a meeting in March, and there was a discussion regarding two separate parcels of land, but there was nothing else to report. The next meeting is scheduled for May.

Frank mentioned that RI Government is actually buying farms at market value; then they are either leasing or selling the farms to other (start-up) farmers at the agricultural value not the market values.

C) Mother Nature's Garden – meeting / progress report

They received their grant check from GrassRoots so now they have a year to complete that project for a water pump on Water Street. Also, they are looking into other grant proposals as well.

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

- 1) Update on Volunteer/Garden Coordinator – job description, etc.
- 2) Update on status of garden rules / regulations / application process / etc.
- 3) Review – Killingly Community Garden as Subcommittee of AG COMM

Hired Sharon George to be volunteer coordinator, she attended the last meeting, and was given assignments to complete.

Potentially, have six to eight gardeners for this year. Planting day will be Sunday, May 20, 2018. The group seems to be getting organized for the season. Ann-Marie mentioned that there are only one or two applications completed and returned to the P&D office.

KCS contacted the KCG by Facebook to see if there could be any interaction between the two groups. Sharon will get back to KCS to try to schedule a meeting.

Chris will double check the date for clean-up – April 29th at 9:00 am

E) Tomato Festival – meeting / progress report

We are meeting for the first time as a large group (all encompassing) tomorrow morning, Thursday April 12, 2018 at 8:00 am. Our own committee (AG COMM) will be meeting on Tuesday, April 24, 2018.

Virginia said the Farmers' Market is willing to participate this year at the festival. The corn shucking contest will no longer be going on – so we are looking for a program to replace that section of the Tomato Contest. The high school is running a poster contest for the tomato festival; and the school will also participate in the Tomato Art Work.

F) Green News Newsletter – meeting / progress report

Right now we are at 125 readers / subscribers for the newsletter. When do we expect our next publication? Maybe mid-May would be a good time for another publication – maybe right after our next meeting of the AG COMM?

VII. Regulations – review / revisions / discussion / action

A) Town of Killingly Zoning Regulations Section 585 "Agriculture"

B) Borough of Danielson Zoning Regulations Section 585 "Agriculture"

Ann-Marie – the TOK draft should be the final draft; the Borough draft should be the first draft.

The group went through both the drafts at the same time, having the drafts side by side.

Virginia suggested that the group take the drafts home and come back with any comments, etc. for our next meeting in May. The group agreed.

VIII. Other Discussion Items – review / discussion / action

A) 2020 POCD – letter from PZC

We are required by state statute to review, revise, every 10 years. We are asking boards / commissions to review the section of the POCD that they are “involved” in; and that we are most likely to Charrettes sometime in June (06/16/ or 06/23) for representatives from various boards.

The POCD is the Town’s vision of where we want to be at 10 years in the future; this is the official document that the State accepts as the Town’s vision. We are in our information and opinion gathering information stages.

Please put it on the Agenda for our May meeting.

David Griffiths – the POCD is extremely important. Sewer avoidance areas, what areas you want to preserve or areas that you want to develop.

Virginia – will we have a set of questions to respond to? Ann-Marie explained the idea/working of a charrette.

Discussion Item: Adam Griffiths – talked about the removal of the agricultural member that has not shown up for close to / over a year’s time. This does not need to be a formal motion.

Byron Martin made a motion for recommendation that Town Manager / Town Council remove Christina Salisbury for lack of attendance. Virginia Keith seconded; no further discussion; vote 4 to 0; motion passed.

Discussion Item: Adam Griffiths – talked about a presentation he attended in East Haddam. Talked about agricultural buildings, etc.; no information has handed out to the attendees. Talked about safety and storage (for example: hay) of items in your buildings / barns. The discussion was put on by the Farm Bureau.

Is there a possibility that we may want to put something together for people in our area?

IX. Next Meeting – Regular Meeting – May 9, 2018 – review/discussion/action

X. Adjournment

Byron Martin motioned to adjourn; Virginia Keith seconded.
Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.