



**Killingly Agriculture Commission**  
**WEDNESDAY – May 13, 2020**

Regular Meeting  
7:00 pm

**MINUTES**

Public can view a recording of this meeting on the Town of Killingly Facebook page.

- I. **Call to Order and Roll Call:** The meeting was called to order by the Chair.
- II. **Attending:** Frank Anastasio, Byron Martin, Amelia Kellner, Virginia Champagne, Marina Capraro, Jonathon Blake  
**Absent without notice:** Adam Hunt (member), Patti Larrow-George (town council liaison)
- II. **Agenda Addendum:** None.
- III. **Citizens Participation- Pursuant to Governor's Executive Order 7B, all public comment can be emailed to [publiccomment@killinglyct.gov](mailto:publiccomment@killinglyct.gov) or mailed to Town of Killingly, 172 Main Street, Killingly, CT 06239 on or before the meeting. All public comment received prior to the meeting will be posted on the Town's website [www.killinglyct.gov](http://www.killinglyct.gov): No public comments submitted.**
- IV. **Adoption of Minutes – review / discussion / action**
  - A) **Regular Meeting – March 11, 2020:** A motion was made to adopt the minutes as written; motion seconded; all in favor; motion passed.
- V. **Reports / General Business – review / discussion /action**
  - A) **Classes – discussion/action**
    - i. **Virginia's spring class: Intro to Organic Gardening- Cancelled due to COVID19**  
Virginia intends to reschedule this course for the fall.
    - ii. **Frank's class- seed starting- Cancelled due to COVID19**  
Frank is unsure if or when this course will be rescheduled.
  - B) **Other Events – discussion:** None. The capacity of the Ag Commission to run its class offerings has been greatly reduced due to guidelines about public gatherings.
  - C) **Killingly Community Garden – meeting / review / discussion / action**
    - i. **Staff update on KCG:** Due to COVID-19, the Killingly Community Garden has decided to cease accepting applications for garden plots. The few individuals whom have already applied and paid for a garden bed will be allowed to continue, however all of the remaining beds will be maintained by garden members as donation beds for local food pantries.
  - D) **Tomato Festival – progress report:** A discussion ensued on the potential that Tomato Festival may be cancelled. The consensus of the members is that the town should wait until sometime in July before making a decision as to whether to hold or cancel the Festival. With all the cancellations of fairs and events, food and craft vendors are losing a lot of opportunities for making money, especially non-profit organizations. These folks would most likely welcome the chance to sell their goods. The Farmers Market is already operating and

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- have their protocols in place for customer and farmer safety. Some concern was expressed about a chili tasting event in terms of serving. If guidelines for serving food would be too cumbersome, the chili event could be omitted.
- E) **Green News Newsletter – progress report:** A discussion ensued about compiling a newsletter over the next few weeks to alert subscribers about the offerings of local food producers. Virginia and Frank will be coordinating the effort to reach out to farms for info on what they're selling, and compile it for the next newsletter.
- F) **Winter/Spring Farmer's Market– discussion/action:** The last winter farmers market was cancelled due to COVID-19. The Summer/Spring markets are open, with restrictions and guidelines for social distancing and PPE.
- VI. **Town Council Liaison Report – meeting / progress report:** The town council liaison was not present.
- VII. **Other Items – review/discussion/action**
- A) **Discussion: Preparing for a “new normal” in the agriculture community and for the work of the ag commission**
- i. **Resources for farmers:** CT Dept of Agriculture has a newsletter to compile resources for farmers. The Green Newsletter will be sharing additional resources.
- ii. **Adapting business models for COVID19:** Virginia (owner of Blueberry Hill Organic Farm), Byron (owner of Logee's) and Amelia (owner of Black Sun Farm) shared the ways their business models have had to adapt to new guidelines and shutdowns.
- VIII. **Next Meeting – Regular Meeting –JUNE 10, 2020– review/discussion/action**
- IX. **Adjournment:** A motion was made to adjourn the meeting; motion seconded; meeting adjourned at 7:48pm.