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Killingly Agriculture Commission
WEDNESDAY – SEPTEMBER 11, 2019

Regular Meeting

7:00 pm

Killingly Town Hall, 172 Main Street, Killingly, CT

ROOM 102 – FIRST FLOOR

MINUTES

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chair Byron Martin.

Attending: Byron Martin, Frank Anastasio, Virginia Keith, Amelia Kellner.

Absent without notice: Adam Hunt

Also attending: Adam Griffiths, Town Council Liaison; Ann-Marie Aubrey, Director Planning and Development; and Marina Capraro, Assistant Planner.

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]
No Citizen Participation; no-one from general public attended.

IV. Adoption of Minutes – review / discussion / action

- A) Regular Meeting – AUGUST 14, 2019 – Virginia Keith made a motion to adopt the minutes; Amelia Kellner seconded; no further discussion; vote 4/0; motion passed.

Note: Wrong agenda was provided to commission initially. Staff recognized this mistake and provided the commission with the correct agenda for the September 11, 2019 meeting.

V. Real Estate Parcels Classified under Section 490 – review / discussion / action

- A) Continued discussion regarding survey questions; Virginia Keith requested clarification on 490 landowner survey and options for landowners to express interest in conservation easements. Staff agreed to add an option for survey participants to express interest in easements. General discussion on the different types of transactions between the town and landowners that can occur in order to convey an easement, as well as how agricultural easements are managed and which types of properties would be a priority for the agricultural commission.

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

- A) **Classes** – Amelia's apple sauce canning class will be scheduled for October 13, 2019 at 1:00pm until 3:00pm, \$8 fee. The class will run with a maximum of 12 participants. Staff will create advertisements to run in the Turnpike Buyer and Shopper's Guide on September 25th and October 2nd. At the August 14, 2019 meeting, the commission had made a motion to spend up to \$50.00 for supplies for the class. Virginia Keith is willing to do a "growing microgreens class"; this class will run in the late winter/early spring. More information will be provided in later meetings.

- B) **Other Events** – None

- C) **Open Space Land Acquisition Committee / Farmland Inventory** – meeting / progress report
No meeting. There will be a meeting on September 26, 2019.

- D) **Mother Nature's Garden** – meeting / progress report
MNG will have a booth at the Tomato Festival, but need a 10x10 pop-up tent. They are looking for volunteers for weeding and labor, as well as board members. Staff is willing to assist MNG in finding new ways to engage a younger generation of people interested gardening. The idea of a student intern who would help with MNG as well and KCG was proposed; supervision of the student may be a limiting factor.

- E) **Killingly Community Garden** – meeting / review / discussion / action
KCG had their End of Season Potluck on Sunday, September 8th. Their originally scheduled meeting for September was rescheduled due to weather; they will meet on Thursday, September 12th. There is a possibility that KPRD will be moving into the Central Office building and the garden may need to be eventually moved to a different spot on-site, or to an entirely different location. There was no garden coordinator this year. P&D staff member, Marina Capraro (Assistant Planner/Natural Resources Officer) will be traveling to Indianapolis, IN September 12-15th to attend the American Community Garden Association Conference. This travel is funded by the Northeast District Department of Health. She will be required to give presentation at 3 different events over the next year and will report back to KCG to share what she learned.

- F) **Tomato Festival** – meeting / progress report
The Tomato Festival is scheduled for Saturday, September 14, 2019. Adam Griffiths & family will be providing a tractor, 25 bales of hay, mums and other decorations for the float. The floats banner will include advertisements for local farms; general discussion about logistics of the various contests going on during the event. There are 5 entries for the chili contest, with one entry available on stand-by if anyone drops out or does not show.

- G) **Green News Newsletter** – meeting / progress report
Newsletter was initially sent out on September 6th. After two days, Frank re-sent the newsletter. The 'open-rate' (amount of recipients who actually opened the email) was at 60%, out of approximately 135 on the mailing list. The newsletter promoted the winter farmers market, the canning class and had some informational articles.

- VIII. **Town Council Liaison Report** – meeting / progress report
Adam Griffiths reported the Town Council met on September 10th to discuss the procurement ordinance changes and allocating funds for new copy machines for town staff.

- IX. **Other Items** – review/discussion/action
None.

- X. **Next Meeting** – Regular Meeting – **OCTOBER 9, 2019** – review/discussion/action

- XI. **Adjournment**
Byron Martin made a motion to adjourn; Frank Anastasio seconded; and the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.