



Killingly Agriculture Commission

Wednesday, September 9, 2015

Regular Meeting

7:00 pm

Killingly Town Hall

172 Main Street, Killingly, CT

Room 102

Minutes

- I. **Call to Order and Roll Call** – Call to order at 7:03 PM. Present: Frank Anastasio, Byron Martin, James Stevens, Tina Stevens, Jim Burlingame, Adam Griffiths, Sue Barry, Christel Shaw. Also present: Eric Rumsey, Planner 1, acting staff liaison, Dennis Alemian, Ginny Chase
- II. **Agenda Addendum** – Third Ever Great Killingly Tomato Festival Photography contest judging – Byron Martin motioned to add the item as new business, Jim Burlingame second, all approved.
- III. **Public Hearings (as called)** - None
- IV. **Citizen Participation** – None present
- V. **Adoption of Minutes**
 - A) Regular Meeting of August 12, 2015 – Adam Griffiths has one “d” – James Stevens motion to approve as corrected, Byron Martin second, all approved.
- VI. **Old Business**
 - A) 2015 Event Planning - review/discussion/action
 - i) **“Third Ever Killingly Great Tomato Festival” – September 12, 2015** – The planning for the festival is going quite well. There have been a number of donations including a \$1000 donation by the Byrnes Insurance Agency. They will be the major booth sponsor, featured in all advertising and publications. Barry Builders are a booth sponsor again this year with a \$250 donation. The restaurant and salsa contests are ready to go. Tina has all the necessary supplies for the judges and to serve the food. The commission will meet at 6AM to begin set up. Adam Griffiths will supply 50 hay bales for the event. Sue Barry gave an overview of activities planned for the event. Adam will pull the Ag Commission float with his tractor. Joyce Ricci will be on the float along with any others who would like to join in. There are 11 information booths, two musical acts, as well as the farmers market. The commission came to a consensus as to who would man the tomato sampling booth at what time. St. Albans Church will host a tomato fight after the festival. Frank provided Eric with a couple of names for where to purchase tomatoes for the fight.
 - ii) **Classes**
 - a. **Sue Barry – Milk Goat Classes – September 26, 2015** – Sue’s class date has changed to October 24, 2015.
 - b. **Other classes?** – None.
 - iii) **Other events**

a. **Jim Burlingame – farm tour – October 18, 2015** – Jim will hold a raising sheep class starting at 10 AM, October 18, 2015. Ann Marie will make up an ad for this event.

b. **Tom and Bruce Kohl – Slater Hill Mill talk – October 18, 2015** – Tom and Bruce Kohl will hold an event on the Slater Hill Mill following Jim's class.

B) **Open Space Land Acquisition Committee/Farmland Inventory – no meeting** – Tabled.

C) **Mother Nature's Garden - Water Street/Footbridge Project –meeting report - review/discussion/action** – The Mother Nature's Garden has created t-shirts for people who have contributed to the garden to date. They have also created t-shirts for the public for sale. The Eastern Connecticut Conservation District will be voting whether or not to be the umbrella organization for the Mother Nature's Garden's. Ginny reported that there was an article in the Reminder about the garden. Maury's Pub has donated chain link fencing for the garden. Ginny has requested help from Byron in leading a class on native pollinators. Byron agreed. The Mother Nature's Garden is filing for 501c non-profit status.

D) **Killingly Community Garden – September 2, 2015 meeting report - review/ discussion /action** – The Community Garden and local Girl Scouts are seed saving for Mikaela's Garden. The garden is being cleaned up for the Tomato Festival. There is a clean-up day scheduled for October 10th at 10 AM to break down the gardens. They held a harvest day for any remaining crops. The grant for the water system has been extended to September 29th. There have been several issues including the waterline having to go over a walkway due to the water being shut off on the greenhouse.

E) **Updating the "Killingly Grown" brochure - review/discussion/action** – Tabled.

VII. New Business

A) **"Livestock Management Plan" clarification – from ZEO/Planning Assistant Karen Clark - UPDATE** – Frank wrote a letter to the Planning and Zoning Commission regarding the Agriculture Commission's position on the "Livestock Management Plan". The letter answered the Planning and Zoning Commission's questions. There is a problem with the regulations regarding the amounts of animals available as of right due to the word "or" being between chickens, pigs, goats, etc. This would limit the farmer to having one type of animal.

B) **Third Ever Great Killingly Tomato Festival Photo Contest Judging** - The commission judged the photos submitted by the Killingly High School students, coming up with first, second, and third place winners. The photos will be displayed at the festival and afterwards either in the town hall or at a local business.

VIII. Other Discussion Items

IX. Next Meeting - Wednesday, October 8, 2015, 7 PM

X. Adjournment – Byron Martin motion to adjourn, Jim Burlingame second, all approved. Adjournment at 9:23PM.