



KILLINGLY COMMUNITY GARDEN COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING / WORKSHOP MEETING WITH AGRICULTURE COMMISSION

WEDNESDAY, November 1st, 2017

7:00 p.m.

Killingly Town Hall

172 Main Street, Killingly CT 06239

Room 102

Amended – Minutes

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call
 - A. Welcome and Introductions-Meeting called to order by chair, Wayland Leonard, at 7:05pm, with Wayland Leonard, John Colbridge, Samantha Abbamonte, Brittany Evans, Carrie Carter, Jess Viens, Jonathan Blake, Eric Rumsey, Louise Lee, Heather Goodier, Adam Griffiths, Frank Anastasio, Chris Shaw, Virginia Keith, and Byron Martin in attendance.
- II. Approval of Minutes
 - A. October 4, 2017 Regular Meeting-a motion was made by Jess Viens to accept the minutes. Seconded by John Colbridge. Approved unanimously.
- III. Citizens' Comments-

Kyle Spalding, 33 Lyon Hill Road Woodstock, CT, a member of the Quiet Corner Democratic Socialists of America spoke in favor of the garden and the executive committee, of how the Quiet Corner DSA was looking forward to promoting their mission by volunteering at the garden during the upcoming growing season.

Cory Smith of Black Pond Brews spoke in favor of the garden and the executive committee and how he looked forward to a possible partnership between the garden and Black Pond Brews.

Bill Salka also of the Quiet Corner Democratic Socialists of America spoke in favor of the garden and was looking forward to volunteering in the future.

Trevor Roulette, 562 Phoenixville Road Chaplin, CT, also of the Quiet Corner Democratic Socialists of America spoke of the garden and was looking forward gardening and volunteering in the future.

(7:15 – Killingly Agriculture Commission called their meeting to order. Roll call: Frank Anastasio, Chris Shaw, Virginia Keith, and Byron Martin present)

IV. Ongoing Business – review/discussion/action

A. Workshop Meeting with Agriculture Commission Members

a) Introduction – AG COMM (review/discussion/action) –

Frank Anastasio made a brief introduction of what the Agriculture Commission is and there role in regards to the Killingly Community Garden.

Virginia Keith gave an introduction to the joint workshop meeting. She spoke about being a volunteer for the town, accountability, and that the purpose of the meeting is to help develop goals and strategies for a successful garden. Frank Anastasio gave a brief history of the garden and its founding members.

- b) 2017 Garden Report – short term and long term (review/discussion/action) – Virginia handed around a report she had developed totaling the work days and volunteer hours spent working at the garden. The report was discussed and additional volunteer hours were discussed and added. Carrie and John both added approximately 30 hours each watering the garden. Wayland added 40 to 45 hours creating the website and pamphlet designs. Chris asked why the executive board had to count volunteer hours. It was explained that for grants, and time management purposes volunteer hours should be counted. Eric stated as an example that the Conservation Commission volunteers typically between 1000 and 1500 hours each year and that the Community Garden in its growing season may want to set a goal of 500 hours. Heather asked about volunteering at the Tomato Festival and if those hours should count. Those hours should be included in any total of volunteer hours.

A motion was made by Carrie Carter, seconded by John Colbridge to allow, the suspension of the rules to allow for public comment for this meeting; approved unanimously.

Virginia made contact and spoke or attempted to speak with gardeners who have had plots at the Community Garden either this growing season, or in the past. Gardeners expressed frustration and a lack of communication by the Community Garden. She documented and presented suggestions from gardeners. Suggestions included: Advertising so community members are aware of the garden and therefore easier to sign up; Meetings with gardeners should take place; There should be a shared gardener list with contact information; Easy access to water.

Carrie asked to read into the record a response to audio from the October 11, 2017, Regular Meeting of the Agriculture Commission. The letter was in response to a motion to disband the KCG made by Virginia Keith, seconded by Byron Martin. It was suggested that the motion was hostile and aggressive towards the KCG and volunteers such as Heather. The KCG would like an explanation as to why the motion was made. Specifically, the letter addressed the portion of the motion and discussion regarding the designer and planting, and payment/invoices. Further, the letter addressed the accusation that the bed was not prepared for the low tunnel class held by Virginia. It also addressed donations to the food pantry. The letter cites staff for slowdowns and projects not going through. It was questioned why Virginia did not bring her concerns to the KCG, rather than going “over their heads” to the Agriculture Commission. The KCG feels that they can no longer work with Virginia any longer and they would like the motion stricken from the record. Eric, Adam, and Jonathan explained that a motion may not be stricken from the record, however that in this instance the motion was withdrawn and no action taken.

Virginia responded to the letter stating that as a volunteer and a commission member, she has a responsibility to the community. She was concerned when a community member asked staff why the garden was abandoned. Staff went and took pictures for the Agriculture Commission. (John Colbridge left the meeting at 8:09PM) She apologized for making the motion, explaining that she believed the only way to introduce the item for discussion was to make a strong motion. Her intention was not to offend the KCG, rather to introduce a topic of discussion in order to help the KCG make the garden successful.

Wayland responded citing many successes and accomplishments over the last 4 years including donations to the Friends of Assisi, hanging the scale in the shed, and the many planting and cleanup days. Wayland presented several letters of support for the garden and the KCG. (The letters were not read into the record, copies of the letters are available upon request).

Sam also responded. She stated that she joined the KCG in January of 2017, and attained the position of treasurer. She had hoped to bring her skills in grant writing and scheduling to the group.

Brittany stated that the group believes in the community garden, and that the KCG has done everything asked of them, yet feels as if it is never good enough.

Jess stated that the group made it clear that they were having problems with the garden and was looking for help. She believed that the motion accused them of theft and was not pleased. She asked Jonathan if he stated that Jess had sent a check and needed to call the designer to cancel the check. Jonathan stated that, yes he had. He also stated that the audio was available from that meeting and would be happy to play it if it would bring some closure to the argument. Jess stated that she would like to hear the audio. Eric played the audio from the September 6, 2017 regular meeting of the KCG starting at 7:24 until 8:05. The Virginia stated that the designer never received a check from Jess. Jess then stated that she had not actually mailed the check, and was able to void it herself.

Frank stated that the Agriculture Commission needs to discuss at their November 8, 2017 Regular Meeting how the Agriculture Commission interacts with the KCG. Frank asked the KCG if they had any suggestions to please present them to them prior to the next meeting.

Adam Griffiths asked for a way for both the KCG and AG can move forward. He cited a disconnect of communication as a common theme. He believes that everyone here wants the Community Garden to be successful and to find the best way moving forward. With clearly defined parameters practically in regard to payment protocols. He didn't believe that Ms. Keith had said anything in malice that everything she has been saying she has been trying to help. He asked that the problems be identified so that they can be corrected and they can move forward.

Jess motioned to table items C-J until the December 6th regular meeting of the KCG. Sam second, all approved.

- c) Plus/Delta Exercise - (review/discussion/action) – Tabled to December 6th.
- d) Putnam Community Garden Visit Recap (review/discussion/action) – Tabled to December 6th.
- e) Review Goals – short and long term (review/discussion/action) – Tabled to December 6th.

- f) 2018 Growing Season – goals, plans, suggestions (review/discussion/action) – Tabled to December 6th.
- g) Community Outreach / Educational Programs (review/discussion/action) – Tabled to December 6th.
- h) Grant Requirements (review/discussion/action) – Tabled to December 6th.
- i) Management Review (review/discussion/action) – Tabled to December 6th.
- j) New Business (review/discussion/action) – Tabled to December 6th.

V. Next Meeting – Wednesday, December 06, 2017

VI. Adjournment – Jess motion to adjourn at 8:50 PM. Sam second, all approved. (Wayland Leonard, Carrie Carter, Jess Viens, Sam Abbamonte, Brittany Evans leave the meeting)