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Elizabeth M. Wilson



Killingly Agriculture Commission

WEDNESDAY, January 10, 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, Christel Shaw, and Virginia Keith

Absent without notification: Cristina Salisbury

Staff: Ann-Marie Aubrey, Director of Planning and Development

Town Council Liaison: Adam Griffith, Absent with notice

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) Special Meeting of November 1, 2017 – Virginia Keith moved to table the minutes of the 11/01/2017 meeting until the next meeting of 02/14/2018; Chris Shaw seconded; no discussion; vote 4/0; motion passed.

B) Special Meeting of December 6, 2017 – Virginia Keith moved to adopt the minutes of 12/06/2017; Chris Shaw seconded; no discussion; vote 4/0; motion passed.

C) Regular Meeting of December 13, 2017 – Virginia Keith moved to adopt the minutes of 12/13/2017; Chris Shaw seconded; discussion – a correction needed to be made under Tomato Festival – “Frank will sign up for the class” – Ann-Marie explained that she registered both Frank and Jonathan for the class – that is the correction. Byron Martin moved the correction; Virginia Keith seconded the correction; no further discussion; vote 4/0 - the motion for the correction was approved. Back to the original motion as corrected; no further discussion; vote was 4/0 – the minutes were adopted as corrected.

VI. General Business – review / discussion /action

A) 2017 Event Planning – Activities, ETC.

1) Classes

Byron Martin will hold his “Introduction to Bee Keeping” on Saturday, 01/20/2018 at 1:00 pm. There was a slight mix up in the advertisement but that was resolved; still hope to expect a good size group for the class.

Byron scheduled a date, Saturday, 02/17/2018 at 1:00 to hold his advanced class – “Keeping Beehives Alive and Healthy”; with a snow date of 02/24/2018; Byron to let us know the number of attendees. The advertisements must appear on Feb. 7, and Feb. 14th for the second class.

2) Other Events

March 15, 2018 - Ann-Marie reported that there is an upcoming “Career Day” at the High School; she will try to get more information out to the Commission Members in case they are interested in participating.

Spring Fest – Frank mentioned possibility of doing a float. Virginia Keith suggested a Farm Tour / Bus Tour, ex. an hour spent at various farms throughout Killingly. Frank and Ann-Marie will try to get more information for the next meeting.

B) Open Space Land Acquisition Committee / Farmland Inventory

Nothing new to report – next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 25, 2018.

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

- a) Working on a grant proposal for Grass Roots New England, sent in, heard nothing yet.
- b) Applications for funders – to help with Phase 2 of the veteran’s garden.
- c) Phase 1 of Veterans Garden is complete and paid for in full.
- d) Michaela’s Garden - \$50.00 membership fee – is AG COMM still willing to pay for it?

Frank asked for the commission’s input on paying the membership fee (\$50.00); there was a discussion. Chris Shaw moved to allocate the spending of \$50.00 to pay the membership fee for Michaela’s Garden for 2018; Virginia Keith seconded the motion; no discussion; vote to 4/0; motion passed.

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

1) Update of AG COMM – KCG work relationship

Frank, Chris Shaw, and Ann-Marie just met with the KCG (John, Wayland, Jess & Carrie) and Jonathan to develop a job description for a Volunteer/Garden Coordinator. The discussion centered on actual management of garden vs management of communications between all parties. Coordination of communication seemed to be the bigger issue. Chris Shaw agreed to help with the oversight of the coordinator. Advertising for the position; stipend position, payment of \$599.00 (to be paid from AG COMM budget) start date of April 1st, 2018 to November. Frank discussed an advertisement (1/8 page ad); websites, etc.; but that we should also contact garden clubs within the area – send a note – as well as other organizations. In order to have an April 1st start date; applications/resumes should be received no later than March 16th. A committee will interview the applicants – AG COMM, KCG, and Staff will be represented on the interview committee.

Ann-Marie reminded the AG COMM that KCG is a subcommittee of the AG COMM and therefore the AG COMM has the ultimate control. AG COMM will determine who is hired – KCG is responsible to AG COMM, not the other way around. Frank stated that they must show that food is actually grown.

The KCG, will provide the AG COMM with a list of what weeks each will manage the garden to make sure it is watered, no insect infestation, weeding is completed, etc.

Ann-Marie said there cannot be any repeat of last year. Chris said that KCG is aware of that.

Chris Shaw made a motion to allocate funds (up to \$75.00) for an 1/8 page ad in two papers for one week to be paid from the AG COMM budget for the KCG Volunteer Coordinator position; Byron Martin seconded the motion; no discussion; vote 4/0; motion passed.

It was noted that the KCG was to approve the job description, application, and rules etc. at their meeting on February 7, 2018. If approved Ann-Marie or Jonathan should email said job description, etc. to the AG COMM members as soon as possible.

2) Volunteer/Garden Coordinator – job description, etc.

See above paragraph.

3) Update on status of garden rules / regulations / application process / etc.

Jonathan and Chris are working with KCG members to complete this at their next meeting, Feb 02, 2018.

Frank requested that the AG COMM be kept in the loop on all of this, and get the chance to review anything they develop.

E) Tomato Festival – meeting / progress report

First meeting for the Tomato Festival will be Tuesday, January 23, 2018 at 5:00 pm in the P&D Office. Ann-Marie will send an email out to all the people that attended last year's organizational meetings.

F) Green News Newsletter – meeting / progress report

We are now up to 124 subscribers; and there was a 40% open/read percentage of the Holiday Edition.

Discussion – we could advertise both the volunteer coordinator position; and the garden plots through Green News.

VII. Regulations – review / revisions / discussion / action

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

Ann-Marie went through the corrections/changes the commission had requested during the December 13, 2017 meeting; (change requests were in the minutes of the 12/13/2017 meeting). There was some discussion regarding what is the definition of large scale/commercial poultry farms.

Virginia Keith mentioned CT Farm Bureau talked about agriculture regulations; would CT Farm Bureau consider reviewing the regulations to see if there were any red flags that we should follow? Is it worth having the CT Farm Bureau review our regulations? Ann-Marie will check into definitions of large scale/commercial poultry farms. Discussion around acreage for a winery; Frank explained why it was determined for five (5) acres. Frank explained all of the factors and the expenses to begin a winery – you must have in order to succeed on becoming a winery. Federal approval must happen before you do anything; license to make wine. Not officially wine until you put it in the bottle.

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

No changes from the last time; just to mirror the Boro regulations with the TOK regulations. Frank questioned whether we are still using the use tables – do we really need it now that we got rid of all "our numbers"? Ann-Marie will look into this. Virginia Keith page 4 – please add the Office of Consumer Protection; Frank agreed as well that it should be added. Ann-Marie to check the TOK regulations as well to make sure the Office of Consumer Protection is added there as well.

Frank stated the Cottage Law was passed; allows people to make food items in their own kitchens and to sell them places; the State Department of Health is to come up with regulations, this has taken over a year. CT made it legal to produce things in your kitchen but you cannot sell them until the regulations are in place.

VIII. Other Discussion Items – review / discussion / action

IX. Next Meeting – Regular Meeting – February 14, 2018 – review/discussion/action

X. Adjournment

Byron made a motion to adjourn at 8:40 pm; Virginia seconded. Meeting adjourned.