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Elizabeth M. Wilson



Killingly Agriculture Commission
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2017

Regular Meeting

7:00 pm

Killingly Town Hall

172 Main Street, Killingly, CT

Room 102

MEETING MINUTES

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Frank Anastasio, Byron Martin, Jim Stevens, Tina Stevens, Christel Shaw, Cris Salisbury, Virginia Keith arrived at 7:05 p.m. Also in attendance was Town Council Liaison Adam Griffiths; and Staff Ann-Marie Aubrey, Director of Planning & Development.

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]

Mr. John Olenick of 58 Hartford Pike got up to speak. He wanted to discuss his FOIA request, and in particular a letter he received that was dated December 20, 2016. He asked if the commission members had received a copy of the letter, they had not. It was explained to him that the Commission forwarded his FOIA request to staff, and that staff sent the letter of December 20, 2016, as it was up to staff, not the commission members, to full fill the FOIA request. At which time it appeared that Mr. Olenick had nothing else to comment upon.

V. Adoption of Minutes – review / discussion / action

A) Regular Meeting Minutes of December 14, 2016 – Byron Martin made a motion to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of December 14, 2016; Jim Stevens seconded that motion. No further discussion. Vote was 5 to 0 to accept. (As all of the regular members were in attendance, neither one of the alternates were required for voting.)

VI. General Business – review / discussion / action

A) 2017 Event Planning – Activities, ETC.

1) Classes

Byron Martin's Bee Keeping Class is full to capacity. It appears that bee keeping is a topic that people continue to be interested in.

Jim Stevens said he is still willing to conduct a class on raising pigs – hopefully, he can give us date for the class at next month's meeting.

Virginia Keith is still planning her class. She is actually considering a series of classes, but is still working out the class schedule.

Ann-Marie Aubrey requested that anyone planning on conducting a class please give the P&D Office 3 to 4 weeks of lead time, so the staff can plan the advertisements, etc.

Frank Anastasio stated he is still willing to do a class in the early spring regarding grapes.

2) Other Events

January 11th from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm at the Killingly HS AG Center there is going to be class regarding business plans for farms and farmers.

B) Open Space Land Acquisition Committee / Farmland Inventory – meeting/progress report

Nothing to report – no meetings were held due to the holidays.

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

Christel Shaw reported that the current project for MNG is the planning and fundraising for the Veterans' Memorial Garden on Water Street. MNG has received an offer for the donation of granite for the Garden, and Ginny Chase is going to look at what is being offered. The Bridge of Flowers is still in the planning stages, and on-going discussions with the Town.

D) Killingly Community Garden – meeting / progress report

Christel Shaw reported that the Town Manager Sean Hendricks attended the last meeting of the KCG. His main topic of discussion is working closely with the Finance Department to make sure the proper financial reporting procedures are followed. The group informed Mr. Hendricks that they had someone interested in becoming the group's Treasurer and that she would indeed work closely with the Finance Department. It was noted that Jonathan Blake, Zoning Enforcement Officer was their new staff contact. Finally, there is some concern that there is a new Superintendent of Schools, it was suggested that KCG make the effort to introduce themselves to the new Superintendent.

E) Tomato Festival – meeting / progress report

Frank and Ann-Marie scheduled the first Tomato Festival Subcommittee meeting for Tuesday, January 24, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. in the P&D Office at Town Hall, to start working on the AG COMM's part of the Festival. No official meeting date for the larger planning committee through Parks & Recreation.

F) Green News Newsletter – meeting / progress report

The newsletter now has approximately 90 readers, which is quite an increase over the last reported number of 64 readers. Frank and Christel are taking the lead on this project, and they requested that commission members keep trying to get new readers. Again, it was suggested that the newsletter be sent out to all the people that attend any of the classes offered by commission members.

VII. Regulations – review / revisions / discussion / action

A) Town of Killingly Zoning Regulations Section 585 "Agriculture" – review / discussion / action

The commission members started to review the latest revision of the agriculture zoning regulations. The commission reviewed up to approximately page 6; then a work committee meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, January 24, 2017 at 9:00 in room 102 of the Town Hall.

B) Borough of Danielson Zoning Regulations Section 580 "Agriculture" – review / discussion / action

The commission will start to review the Borough regulations once they have completed their review of the Town of Killingly regulations. Ann-Marie mentioned that any changes to the Borough regulations

would also need to receive the approval of the Borough Council prior to the Planning & Zoning Commission doing any work on the regulations:

VIII. Other Discussion Items – review / discussion / action

Ann-Marie asked Frank about the status of his Agriculture of Killingly film he was working on. Frank responded that he still needed some more footage; then he would start working on the script (speaking) and the editing of all the footage. He is hoping to have a good portion of this project completed by late spring. “Killingly Farms – A Year in Farming” – it will be aimed towards younger students, and (hopefully) will be distributed / available through the public library and the school libraries as well.

It was noted that Palazzi’s Orchard was up for sale – the price is somewhere near \$750,000.00; it is believed that the orchard is protected through the CT Preservation and that it must be sold as a farm.

It was also noted that two other “farm lots” were for sale in town – one contained approximately 25/30 acres of farmland; and the other contained approximately 12 acres.

IX. Next Meeting - Wednesday, February 8, 2017

X. Adjournment

Byron Martin made a motion to adjourn, and Jim Stevens seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann-Marie Aubrey
Director Planning & Development