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Elizabeth M. [unclear]



**Killingly Agriculture Commission**  
**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2017**

Regular Meeting

7:00 pm

Killingly Town Hall

172 Main Street, Killingly, CT

**ROOM 102**

**MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING**

**I. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm

In Attendance – Frank Anastasio; Byron Martin; Virginia Keith; absent with notification – Christel Shaw; absent without notification – Christina Salisbury

Staff – Ann-Marie Aubrey

Adam Griffith, Town Council Liaison arrived late.

**II. Agenda Addendum**

None

**III. Public Hearings (as called)**

**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]**

John Colbridge – Though he is a member of the KCG he was here to present his personal view with regard to the motion made at the last meeting regarding KCG. It is his personal belief that the motion was not fully stated in the record.

Louise Lee – Presented the final report for the Elk's Beacon Grant. The grant in the amount of \$2,000.00 was given to the KCG in 2017. She read the final report into the record.

**V. Adoption of Minutes – review / discussion / action**

A) Regular Meeting of October 11, 2017 – Byron Martin moved to adopt minutes, Virginia Keith seconded for discussion. Discussion ensued, regarding Roberts Rules, withdrawn motions and what is required to be contained in the minutes for municipal boards under state statute.

Virginia Keith withdrew her second, Byron Martin withdrew his motion.

Virginia Keith moved to table the adoption of the minutes of the October 11, 2017 meeting until December 13, 2017. Byron Martin seconded. Vote was 3/0 – motion passed.

B) Special Meeting of November 1, 2017 – Minutes from this meeting will be available at December 13, 2017 meeting.

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

**A) 2017 Event Planning – Activities, ETC.**

- 1) Classes - Nothing to report.
- 2) Other Events - Nothing to report.

**B) Open Space Land Acquisition Committee / Farmland Inventory**

Nothing to report

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

Clean up session – Saturday, November 4, 2017 – cleaned up gardens along Water Street.

Fund Raiser – November 1, 2017 – no final figure on amount of funds raised.

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

**1) Discussion of AG COMM – KCG work relationship**

Frank read into the record a copy of an email he received from Chris Shaw.

Virginia asked about the town's oversight and assistance to other subcommittees, ad hoc committees, etc. land use within the town.

Frank explained there were different examples – we have to take each separately, all at different levels, it depends upon the relationship between the group and the town.

a) Mother Nature's Garden – Started as a subcommittee of AG COMM, now a 501(c)(3) non-profit; still has a liaison from AG COMM; and still reports all its activities to the Town.

b) Conservation Commission is a commission onto itself.

c) Friends of the Library – Used town land (at the library), planted flowers, cleaned up around library, not sure what, if any, oversight is required.

d) NECT Farmers Market – No oversight by town.

e) Tomato Festival – KPRD; AG COMM; P&D – commissions, subcommittees, work with various town staff. Town staff highly involved.

**2) Update on status of garden**

Chris Shaw was not here to report.

There was discussion between Frank and Virginia regarding her KCG activity, and interaction with the group.

Frank – Chris Shaw has proposed she is willing to supervise the “possible” Garden Coordinator as a Representative from the AG COMM. Frank envisions the KCG as being similar to have a Board of Directors making the “big decisions”; there would be a person doing the day to day things under the supervision of Chris Shaw/AG COMM/Town Hall Staff. It may be worth trying it for one year.

Byron – “one key person to be the manager” – may solve some of the problems.

Pomfret Garden Visit – update/report given by Virginia Keith; all work done by volunteers; provide food to food banks, etc. (no “private” gardeners – all food donated). Carrie, Jonathan, Eric and Adam Griffiths were all there.

**3) Continuation of Special Meeting with KCG to December 6, 2017**

AG COMM would like to meet with KCG at their December 6<sup>th</sup> workshop.

Byron – said he would like to hear the plans of the KCG for moving forward for the next year; how do they plan to move forward?

Frank – would any of the commission members open the rest of the agenda open to the public – to suspend rules?

Byron – does not believe it would be necessary to suspend the rules at this point.

**E) Tomato Festival – meeting / progress report**

The fourth Tuesday in January will be the first meeting for organizing the Tomato Festival.

**F) Green News Newsletter – meeting / progress report**

Frank reported on this in Chris Shaw's absence. Chris Shaw has taken it over totally, but Frank stays in communication, both before and after publication. Latest issue went out – KCG, MNG, AG COMM & CONS COMM are the four contributors to the newsletter. Current enrollment is 120 subscribers. AG VOCATE (statewide newsletter) sometimes re-prints an article – last one was about Virginia's high tunnel class.

**VII. Regulations – review / revisions / discussion / action**

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

July 12, 2017 – latest rendition of proposed regulations everyone was looking at.

Frank gave a history to explain to the public attendees.

Ann-Marie explained that there were still some definitions that need revisions.

(1) Page 3 - #4 Buffer Zone / Buffer Strip = what are the commissions' suggestions?

Keep the definition commission came up with – switch the order of "fencing and berms" to "berms and fencing", and add the last line of the (current zoning regs.) definition "Maintenance of required buffer shall be the responsibility of the owner or occupant of the property."

(2) Page 5 - #21 Seasonal Farm Stand – keep definition as commission suggested, replace the current definition in the zoning regulations – make reference to criteria on page 10.

(3) Page 5 - #22 Farm Store – keep definition as commission suggested, replace the current definition in the zoning regulations – make reference to criteria on page 11.

Remainder to requested changes:

(4) Page 8 – letter f) – put in the word "to" after the word "urged" line 2; and remove grammar mark after the word "municipality" last line.

(5) Page 10 – number 2) {top of page} - At the end put "All applicable state regulations from the Department of Health and Department of Agriculture must be met, and followed."

(6) Page 10 – letter b); number 2) – should read "Zoning permit will be required, if applicable."

(7) Page 11 – number 8) – change the word "shall" to "may"

(8) Page 11 – letter d); number 1) – remove "lot size is a minimum of three (3) acres"

(9) Page 11 – letter d); number 4) – remove the second "meet the demands of" (duplicated)

(10) page 15 – letter I); number 1) – Change to "Are permitted as by right on any lot in the Rural Development, Low Density, Medium Density and Village Commercial zoning districts, including those that are less than 80,000 square feet in area; however, generally accepted agricultural practices must be followed."

No other changes were requested.

Ann-Marie is to make changes and bring copies to next meeting.

Ann-Marie will also try to complete the agricultural use table(s); and begin the draft of the Borough Regulations.

**VIII. Other Discussion Items – review / discussion / action**

**A) "Draft Budget Expenditures" for this year**

Ann-Marie presented a proposed budget for the rest of this fiscal year. She presented various scenarios of expenditures. Ann-Marie will try to have a typed copy for the next meeting. General consensus was that if the AG COMM provided money for a Garden Coordinator, and paid for some advertising for KCG approximately 1/3 of the AG COMM budget would go to KCG.

- IX. Next Meeting - Special Meeting with KCG – December 6, 2017**  
Regular Meeting – December 13, 2017

**X. Adjournment**

Byron made a motion to adjourn at 9:00 pm; Virginia Keith seconded.  
Meeting Adjourned.