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*Elizabeth M. Wilson*



## **Killingly Agriculture Commission**

**WEDNESDAY, February 14, 2018**

Regular Meeting

7:00 pm

Killingly Town Hall

172 Main Street, Killingly, CT

**ROOM 102**

### **Minutes**

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

Attending: Frank Anastasio, Chris Shaw, Virginia Keith, Byron Martin arrived late

Absent w/out notification: Cristina Salisbury

Staff attending: Ann-Marie Aubrey, Director Planning & Development

Town Council Liaison: Adam Griffiths

**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 – Chris Shaw made a motion to adopt; Byron Martin seconded; no discussion; vote was 4 / 0; motion passed.

B) Regular Meeting of January 10, 2018 – Virginia Keith made a motion to adopt; Byron Martin seconded; discussion ensued; two amendments (changes) were made; 1) Griffith should be Griffiths; and 2) date of KCG meeting should read February 7, 2018; Virginia Keith made a motion to accept the amendments; Byron martin seconded; no discussion; vote was 4 / 0; motion to approve amendments was passed. Back to the original motion with amendments; no discussion; vote was 4 / 0; motion to adopt minutes as amended was passed.

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

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

**1) Classes**

Byron Martin said his first introductory bee keeping class was a success, there were approximately 25 / 30 people in attendance. Byron will be offering his second bee keeping class – “How to Keep Your Hives

Healthy” on Saturday, February 17, 2018 at 1:00 pm. At this time not sure how many people have registered for that class.

## **2) Other Events**

Ann-Marie announced that the date for the Killingly Spring Festival was May 19, 2018 starting at 9:00 am and it will take place on Main Street, Killingly. There was some discussion about possibly doing an agricultural tour of local Killingly Farms; however, it was determined that would best be done on a separate date and time. Frank then raised the possibility of setting up an informational table during the Spring Festival. Staff will check into that possibility and report to the Commission at their next meeting. Also talked about having a parade float, but that may be too much as it is planting season for farmers, etc.

March 10, 2018 at the Plainfield Town Hall there will be a one day Farmers’ Market; everyone is invited to attend.

Virginia Keith did a class at the Quiet Corner Farmers Market.

Ann-Marie announced the date and time for the High School Career Day – March 15, 2018, and gave the Commission members the name and number of the contact person.

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

Byron mentioned there was a meeting on January 25, 2018 at which time the Committee discussed a particular location in town, which the Committee is interested in. Byron could not mention the location. Also, Ann-Marie asked the AG COMM if there any other areas of the town that they would be interested in preserving for agriculture. There was some discussion; however, no definitive sites. Virginia mentioned a UCONN website which posts land which is available for lease for small farmers. Frank; if you can use a piece of land in town for a young farmer to begin farming would be ideal. Commission members will think about areas in town that they may be interested in.

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

Received a Grass Roots NE grant of \$1600.00 – which is to help with a water system/pump to allow the group to pump water from the river to the Linda Walden Memorial Garden & Stone Wall Garden, on Water Street; looking at solar power, but we are not sure that is feasible. They are planning on doing the raffle at the tomato festival again this year. Proceeds will most likely go towards the purchase of the pump as well. Also working on getting a sponsor for phase II of the Veteran’s Garden.

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

### **1) Update on Volunteer/Garden Coordinator – job description, etc.**

Garden Coordinator Advertisement, Job Description, and the Application for individual garden plots for the upcoming year were reviewed. Suggestions were made for changes to all documents and Ann-Marie should send final copies to Frank and Chris.

### **2) Update on status of garden rules / regulations / application process / etc.**

Commission reviewed the application for the individual garden plots, and made some changes to that document as well. Ann-Marie is to send final copies to Commission members.

### **3) Review – Killingly Community Garden as Subcommittee of AG COMM**

It was brought to the attention of the Commission that the KCG was originally intended to become an independent private non-profit; however, it is clear even from the KCG minutes that they never intend to become a non-profit. Therefore, the by-laws of the AG COMM should be the by-laws of the KCG; and Chris Shaw is actually the person in charge of the KCG as she is the only AG COMM member sitting on the KCG.

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

Next meeting is scheduled for April 24, 2018 in the planning and development office. Frank, Eric and Jonathan will be attending the FAST class on March 1, 2018.

Ann-Marie is to compile the schedule for planning purposes and send it out to all Tomato Festival Subcommittee members.

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

Chris will try to a copy of the newsletter out as soon as possible with an advertisement for the KCG Garden Coordinator.

**VII. Regulations – review / revisions / discussion / action – TO DISCUSS AT NEXT MEETING**

A) Town of Killingly Zoning Regulations Section 585 “Agriculture”

B) Borough of Danielson Zoning Regulations Section 585 “Agriculture”

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

Frank saw that the Town is considering a town wide trash pick-up program. Frank would like to give Adam some feed-back from a farmer’s point of view. Adam stated that he is against such a proposal. Frank cannot imagine the town picking up some of the bulky waste that a farmer would most likely put out at the curbside. Virginia said that for an “average homeowner” it was a good thing, when she lived in Ellington. Question: How would a farm or a business fit into this program? How are home businesses going to be handled?

Adam stated that Frank Alaman(sp) wants to put together a vision committee for the Town of Killingly; Ann-Marie reminded Adam that the “vision for Killingly” is supposed to put out in the Town’s Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD), and that is the only vision for Killingly that the State recognizes. She asked Adam to give Mr. Alaman the contact information for the Planning & Development Office and they would keep him informed of any meetings for the POCD.

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

**X. Adjournment**

Byron Martin made a motion to adjourn; Virginia Keith seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:05 pm.