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*Elizabeth M. Wilson*



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

**Regular Meeting**

**7:00 pm**

**Killingly Town Hall**

**172 Main Street, Killingly, CT**

**Room 102**

**MINUTES**

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

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

Roll Call / Attendance

Commission Members: Frank Anastasio, Byron Martin, Jim Stevens, Tina Stevens, Christel Shaw

Alternates: Virginia Keith, Cristina Salisbury

Town Council Liaison: Adam Griffiths (absent with notification)

Staff: Ann-Marie Aubrey, Director 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, 58 Hartford Pike – Comments made about the proposed regulations, has issues with some of the regulations (current and proposed), presented written information to the board but not to staff, discussed freedom of information act request that he had submitted to the commission (staff responded to the request), he did not agree with the letter sent from staff dated 12/5/2016, did not agree with a second letter sent from staff dated 01/30/17, will fight regulations to the end.

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

A) Regular Meeting Minutes of January 11, 2017 – Byron Martin made a motion to adopt the minutes of January 11, 2017, Jim Stevens seconded the motion, no further discussion, members voted 5/0, and the motion was approved unanimously.

B) Special Meeting Minutes of January 24, 2017 – Subcommittee Meeting – Regulations – Byron Martin made a motion to adopt the minutes of January 24, 2017, Jim Stevens seconded the motion, no further discussion, members voted 5/0, motion was approved unanimously.

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

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

**1) Classes**

Byron Martin is holding his second class on bee keeping on February 25<sup>th</sup>, this class will be centered more on keeping the bees (hive) healthy and alive, and this class is more for people that are already maintaining bee hives. He would like notification sent to attendees about receiving the Green News newsletter. The notification should come from staff.

Virginia Keith is preparing her class for March 18<sup>th</sup>, and it will be (most likely) from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, and will be centered upon preparing seedlings, etc.

Jim Stevens will have more information for us at the next meeting (March 8, 2017), wants to see how things are going with the births (piglets) before he schedules a date and time.

**2) Other Events**

It was noted that Logee's was promoting their lemon trees, and Ann-Marie made some general announcements about items that appeared in various publications of the CT AG Dept.

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

Nothing to report – no meeting

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

Christel Shaw reported that MNG is working on their Veterans' Memorial Garden, and that they had received approval from 4 out of 5 of the branches of the armed services to use their branch symbol. It was noted that the dedication will hopefully take place on Memorial Day or that approximate time frame. It was asked if the Veterans' Coffee House was involved, and Christel reported that two members (Virginia Chase & Bruce Kohl) of MNG were scheduled to meet with members of the Veterans' Coffee House.

**D) Killingly Community Garden – meeting / progress report**

Christel Shaw reported that the next meeting of the KCG was scheduled for Wednesday, March 1, 2017, that there was a person interested in becoming the Treasurer for the group, and hopefully the new Treasurer can resolve any outstanding issues with the Finance Department.

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

Frank Anastasio reported that the planning committee for the Tomato Festival had its first meeting January 24<sup>th</sup>, and they scheduled the rest of the meeting dates, there was also some discussion on what activities the group wants to continue for this year's event. Frank also noted that the "larger" group, consisting of the KBA, KPRD, WCC, the Library and Frito Lay has yet to schedule their first meeting.

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

Frank Anastasio reported that they are getting ready to publish another Green News newsletter. There was some discussion of what types of articles could appear in the next issue. It was noted that Logee's was celebrating 125 years of being in business. It was suggested Virginia Keith do some sort of article regarding the work of pollinators on a farm. Then there was a general discussion of just when the next publication should come out. Then there was a general discussion of how to get the news out about Green News, and that anyone attending any of the AG COMM classes should receive a sample Green News with instructions on how they can get their free subscription to the newsletter.

**(Continued on next page.)**

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

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

Ann-Marie led the commission through the changes made in the language of the proposed regulations since the last meeting. The commission members want some research done / definitions created for “processing” and “manufacturing”.

**B) Borough of Danielson Zoning Regulations Section 580 “Agriculture” – review / discussion / action**

- Borough – nothing at this time.

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

Killingly (Vo-Ag) High School – Frank Anastasio mentioned that the Vo-Ag H.S. was looking for one more Killingly resident to serve as a Representative on their school advisory board, to help decide the type of curriculum should be offered to the Vo-Ag students.

**IX. Next Meeting - Wednesday, March 8, 2017 – in Planning & Development Office**

Next meeting of the subcommittee dealing with the regulations will be February 28, 2017 @ 9:00 am in Room 102.

Next meeting of the Tomato Festival planning group will be February 28, 2017 @ 5:00 pm in the P&D.

**X. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Ann-Marie L. Aubrey*

Director Planning & Development