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Elizabeth M. Wilson



Killingly Agriculture Commission

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 8, 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

Frank Anastasio, Byron Martin, Virginia Keith (arrived 7:05 pm), Adam Hunt

Absent w/o notification – Cristina Salisbury

Also attending Adam Griffiths, Town Council Liaison; and 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]

None

V. Adoption of Minutes – review / discussion / action

A) Regular Meeting of July 11, 2018

Byron Martin made a motion to adopt the minutes of July 11, 2018; Adam Hunt seconded the motion; no further discussion, vote 3/0 – motion passed.

VI. General Business – review / discussion / action

A) 2018 Event Planning – Activities, ETC.

1) Classes – Virginia Keith will be holding a class, in conjunction with UCONN, about pollinators and pollinators' habitat on August 20, 2018 at 5:00 pm.

Virginia has already given a class on poultry; there were 8 people and everyone was happy with the workshop, a lot of good questions.

2) Other Events – Bike Night (08/16/2018).

Virginia let the commission know that the current location for the Farmers' Market is getting pretty full; are there any other options available to them? They are getting a large number of vendors. Various locations were discussed.

3) Possible "Tour Des Farms" – More research has to be done on this; what have other towns done; how many farmers could we get involved?

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

Nothing new

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

Linda Walden Memorial Garden – has to be done over; bad weather has killed many of the plants;

Rain Gardens – working with ECCD, two locations near walking Bridge on Water Street & Railroad Tracks on Main Street; also talking to the Library to see if they will allow a rain barrel put in for Michaela's Garden;
Tomato Festival – looking for donations as they are going to do a raffle at their information tent.

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

Fund Raiser – check that came to town hall was \$700.00; have to pay two entertainers so the estimated total of funds raised is \$550.00.

Water Tank – the current water tank at the garden cannot be fixed; there is a crack near the spigot which keeps giving out even though the town staff has tried on more than one occasion to fix it; they are looking for a dark colored IBC tank (black plastic with metal around it); they want a dark tank so it does not grow algae;

Picnic for the Gardeners – they had a picnic (BBQ) for the gardeners this past week; we are not sure how many people attended

There was a discussion regarding the type of tank is needed, and where it could be located. Frank said those types of tanks were used in the wine business

E) Tomato Festival – meeting / progress report

The next meeting for the large group to get together is Thursday, August 23, 2018 at 8:00 am at KPRD; Ann-Marie and Frank will be attending. Ann-Marie stated that so far there are 29 craft vendor sites that have already signed up for the event; there is a need for more food vendors. Virginia stated that there is a food vendor attached to the Farmers' Market – "Country Comfort Cooking". Adam stated that he would not be available to drive the tractor in the parade, nor would be available to deliver the many stacks of hay bales that we will need for our set-up for the day. Someone will have to talk to David Griffiths to see if he is willing to drive the tractor.

F) Green News Newsletter – meeting / progress report

Adam has been testing out the Mail Chimp program, and is trying to work with newsletters. Frank is willing to do a newsletter in time for the Tomato Festival. Frank and Adam will work on future newsletters together.

VII. Regulations – review / revisions / discussion / action

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

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

They passed over this section in order to discuss the POCD issues below.

VIII. Plan of Conservation and Development – review/discussion/action

A) Discussion of POCD – what changes, etc. would AG COMM like to see – there was much discussion about various topics – most regarding farms and farmers – could we get a list of those farms on the 490 tax benefit lists.

Discussions included some of the following topics; 490 tax benefits; make the POCD user friendly and an active/live document; things we will always need – affordable housing, elderly housing; care for trees; solar programs; wind mills.

Frank what do we want to propose, talk about...

1. Want to encourage a regional support of processing of livestock for small farmers within the region;
2. Want to access the list of people that have the 490 designation – to help determine what their actual land use is in town, what are their future plans for uses of that land, and whether more of that land can be used for agriculture
3. Want to look at the development of rain gardens within the town – how do we go about doing that
4. Want to see the town's trees maintained and used – look to trees that help pollinators – need to have a long term view of what we replace our trees with when they grow out- want to ensure proper plantings – native trees that help the pollinators – encourage pollinators' habitats

Virginia said she will look into more pollinators' habitats – what the state has to offer

Frank will be at the PZC meeting at 6:00 pm – until 7:00 pm

Adam – discussed bringing abandoned farmland back to farmland, right to farm versus neighbors that no longer remember the farmland

- IX. Town Council Liaison Report – meeting / progress report**
No Report
- X. Other Items – review/discussion/action**
None
- XI. Next Meeting – Regular Meeting – SEPTEMBER 12, 2018 – review/discussion/action**
- XII. Adjournment**
Motion to adjourn made by Byron Martin; Adam Hunt seconded; no discussion.
Meeting ended at approximately 9:00 pm.