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Killingly Agriculture Commission
Special Meeting
Subcommittee Meeting – Agriculture Regulations

Tuesday, January 24, 2017
9:00 AM
Killingly Town Hall, 172 Main Street
ROOM 102

Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Meeting was called to order at approximately 9:04 a.m.

Present – Frank Anastasio, Byron Martin, Cristina Salisbury; Adam Griffiths, Town Council Liaison, Staff – Ann-Marie Aubrey, Director P&D, Eric Rumsey, Planner I, Jonathan Blake, Planning Assistant
Public – Attorney Doug Dubitsky, and John Olenick

Frank Anastasio asked since there were three members of the AG COMM (two regular members and one alternate), had an agenda been posted? Ann-Marie responded that an agenda had indeed been posted and had been sent out. Cristina Salisbury, though an alternate would be voting, if motions were made during the meeting.

There was some further discussion regarding the agenda for the meeting. Ann-Marie stated that the agenda consisted of the call to order, agenda addendum, and just the listing of the business of reviewing / revising the current draft of the regulations. No public comment was put on the agenda as this was to be a workshop meeting; however, a member of the commission could make a motion to suspend the rules of procedure to allow public comment if they so choose.

II. Agenda Addendum

None

Byron Martin made a motion to the suspend the rules of procedure to allow Attorney Dubitsky and John Olenick 5 minutes to speak, as if “public comment” was part of the agenda. Cristina Salisbury seconded that motion. No further discussion. Vote was 3 to 0, the motion passed unanimously.

Attorney Dubitsky introduced himself, and stated that he represented both John Olenick and Cristina Salisbury with regard to 58 Hartford Pike.

Frank Anastasio then raised a question of a possible conflict regarding commission member Cristina Salisbury. He was concerned since Attorney Dubitsky stated that he represented Ms. Salisbury if that limited her actions during this meeting. Eric Rumsey and Ann-Marie Aubrey stated that as long there were no votes taken with regard to 58 Hartford Pike – (and to clarify no votes could, nor should, be taken on 58 Hartford Pike, as the AG COMM has no authority regarding that situation) – then Ms. Salisbury did not have a conflict.

Attorney Dubitsky then continued with regard to the agriculture regulations. He did compliment the commission on the work they were doing; however, he felt that the commission was not going far enough. That the commission should not, nor could they change the definition of agriculture from the state's definition. He was assured by Frank, Byron and Ann-Marie that the commission did not intend to change any of the state's definition(s).

Attorney Dubitsky then went on about how the commission should change its thinking about zones, and concentrate more on buffers, barriers and set-backs. Attorney Dubitsky was reminded that even though Killingly did follow the "right to farm act" that even that act stated that it in no-way negated the Town's rights, or authority under chapter 124 of Connecticut General Statutes. (i.e. ability to regulate through zoning)

Frank then stated that what the AG COMM was doing was a work in process, and that it was not the final revision that would be presented to the Planning & Zoning Commission for consideration.

There was some further discussion with regard to "portable sawmills", "ancillary to the farm", "wood not being grown on site". It was then noted that Attorney Dubitsky's comments had well exceeded the 5 minutes allotted him, and therefore it was time to continue with the meeting.

III. Business

A) Killingly Zoning Regulations Section 585 "Agriculture" and Borough of Danielson Zoning Regulations Section 580 "Agriculture" language – review/discussion/action

The group went through the most recent editorial changes to the proposed regulations. The group then continued with the review to the end of the document.

IV. Other Discussion Items

Byron explained that his bee keeping class was very successful and that he was doing another class on Saturday, February 25, 2017 with a snow date of March 4, 2017. Ann-Marie was given a list of attendees from the last class that had already signed up for the second class in February.

V. Next Meeting – review/discussion/action

The next meeting will be the Regular AG COMM meeting scheduled for Wednesday, February 8, 2017 at 7:00 pm in Room 102. It will be decided at that time whether the subcommittee will need to meet again.

VI. Adjournment

Byron Martin made a motion to adjourn, and Cristina Salisbury seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann-Marie Aubrey
Director of Planning & Development