



RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK, KILLINGLY, CT

2017 MAY 23 PM 4:37

Elizabeth M. Wilson



Killingly Agriculture Commission

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 2017

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; Byron Martin; Christel Shaw; Virginia Keith

Absent with Notice: Jim Stevens and Tina Stevens

Absent without Notice: Cristina Salisbury

Staff: Ann-Marie Aubrey, Director Planning & Development

Town Council Liaison: Adam Griffiths

As the Stevens were not in attendance; Frank as Chairman, told Alternate Virginia Keith that she would be a voting member for this evening's meeting.

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]

John Olenick – Stated he has nothing to say at this time.

John Colbridge – Stated that the (Killingly Community Garden) garden is being cleaned up.

V. Adoption of Minutes – review / discussion / action

A) Regular Meeting Minutes of April 12, 2017

Ann-Marie stated that she noticed that the information for Tomato Festival and the Green Newsletter was not complete, so the minutes will need to be amended. Due to that, it was suggested that a motion be made to table the minutes until the next meeting so those amendments could be completed and included. Byron Martin made a motion to table the minutes of the April 12, 2017 meeting until the next meeting (June 14, 2017). Virginia Keith made a second. There was no further discussion; and the vote was 4 to 0. Therefore the motion was passed.

VI. General Business – review / discussion /action

A) 2017 Event Planning – Activities, ETC.

1) Classes

(*) Frank stated he is ready to do a class on (home) growing tomato plants. However, he will get back to staff with a proposed date. Would like to do the class while the Farmers' Market is going on out in the parking lot; but is willing to do the class during an evening as well due to availability of the library community room. Staff will schedule the community room.

(*) Virginia Keith reported that her class was a success; and that it was completely full. She thanked Frank for publicizing her class on Facebook and the Website.

2) Other Events

(*) Spring Festival is May 20th, an all-day activity 9:00 am to 3:00 pm; parade, yoga in the street, music on the green. Harmony & Hops from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm – trying to revive the spring festival (use to be a three day activity) included a wide variety of activities.

B) Open Space Land Acquisition Committee / Farmland Inventory

Nothing to report

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

The group met on Monday to talk about the Veterans' Garden; working on press releases; trying to raise money for it; working to getting a dedication around July 1st or 4th. That is the focus of the group right now. Cost of making the beds; the plants; the stones engraving; mulch; landscape fabric – estimate still need around \$1,100.00 to complete phase I.

John Colbridge suggested that they go to the Veterans' Council – right next door to coffee house – third Wednesday at 6:30 pm, every month.

John Olenick asked John Colbridge if he was a commission member – John Colbridge said no. Adam Griffiths entered the room.

D) Killingly Community Garden – meeting / progress report

Met last Wednesday, had a presentation regarding the construction of the garden. A representative from the NDDH asked the group if they needed any raised beds for the gardens – and right now there is no need. Wayland is continuing to work on website and trying to decide on the vendor. Planting day is Sunday May 21 starting at 9:00 am.

Michaela's' Garden – Wayland is checking with someone at Davis Place to see if people there would like to take over that project. Davis Place is the nursing home right down the street from the library. Davis Place Staff is interested; Activities Director a possible activity for certain residents of Davis Place. Last year's planting was in June (a late planting time); John Colbridge stated there is a greenhouse in Plainfield. Frank wants the project to continue and not to fall away. Chris believes we will be able to get a group to continue the project.

Bylaws – Staff member Jonathan explained to KCG members the issue regarding the dissolution clause. Chris asked John Colbridge if he saw a problem with that. John said the only issue will be to get a quorum to approve the by-laws.

Ann-Marie made a point for clarification purposes – that John Colbridge is a member of the KCG which is a subcommittee of the Agriculture Commission. Frank than requested a motion to allow John Colbridge join in the conversation about what ever project we are discussing. Byron Martin made a motion to allow John Colbridge to speak on behalf of KCG and issues we are facing. Virginia Keith seconded – no discussion – vote was 4 to 0 – so the motion passed.

John talked about the Elks Grant – want to do the presentation at the Town Council Meeting – but have not received the official check – so KCG is making a display check for the ceremonial purposes for the June meeting. Guessing the presentation will be made on Tuesday, June 13th. Grant will be used to finish hooking up the water system; starting the website; plants; signage for Linda’s memorial; plus whatever other finishing touches need to be done.

E) Tomato Festival – meeting / progress report

Jonathan went to the meeting at KPRD, because neither Frank nor Ann-Marie could attend. Jonathan explained that Web Industries will be volunteering for us. The next meeting with the large group is scheduled for Thursday, June 8, 2017 at 8:30 am at KPRD; the next AG meeting for the Festival is Tuesday, May 23, 2017 at 5:00. Frank asked if the people from Web Industries and the additional volunteer were noticed via email for the meeting on April 25 as none of them showed up at that meeting; Ann-Marie responded that their email addresses were added to the list and that the notice was sent out to them. Frank, Marcia Griffiths, and Beth Knowlton met to discuss getting the vo-ag students involved in running the children’s activity portion, so that is in the works. Discussion about the “cups” needed for the chili contest. We are limiting the samples (contestants) to eight. Adam Griffiths will be in charge of the float for the parade.

F) Green News Newsletter – meeting / progress report

Chris is working on the Green Newsletter; wants to send it out May 16th; articles planting day; farmers’ market, etc. Does anyone else want to add anything? Chris needs all articles by May 15th. Frank wants to include videos in the newsletter, can get a connection to “You Tube” but not directly in the newsletter. Byron Martin talked about a banana plant – that is hardy for this area – will send info to Chris for newsletter. (104 subscribers – with a 66% open/read rate)

VII. Regulations – review / revisions / discussion / action

Adam Griffiths stated that per the Town Attorney that the Borough Council does not need to approve the Zoning Regulations for the Borough Agriculture Regulations. That right was given up some time ago. It is nice to send them a copy; but we do not need to wait for their approval.

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

Ann-Marie stated that the only changes made were those that were requested at the last meeting. Adam talked about making leather; would like to allow leather working as long as it does not violate the obnoxious aroma. The board determined that they would like to have the word “leather” (as a commission member mentioned leather) – add “leather as long as it does not violate section 510”. If we need any other changes, let Ann-Marie know sooner than later. Byron thinks the AG COMM has done as much as it can right now; Frank said the workshop with PZC; Frank said invite them to the June 17th meeting with AG COMM – would like at least two PZC members at that meeting.

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

Frank commented on the high density and medium density lots and he was concerned about the size of the lots. Ann-Marie explained that the size of the lots in the Borough were different from the rest of the Town of Killingly. Borough regulations should parallel the Town regulations, for example farm stands. Ann-Marie and staff will try to have a draft ready for this section for either the June or July meeting.

VIII. Other Discussion Items – review / discussion / action

IX. Next Meeting - Wednesday, JUNE 14, 2017

X. Adjournment

Approximately 8:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Ann-Marie Aubrey, Director Planning & Development