



AGRICULTURAL
COMMISSION
FOR THE TOWN OF
EASTON
CONNECTICUT

Commission Members

Jean Stetz-Puchalski,
Chair

Victor Alfandre,
Recording Secretary

Laurel Fedor

Sal Gilbertie

Irv Silverman

Alternates:

Lori Cochran Dougall

Ray Longo

Minutes

**Meeting of the Easton Agricultural Commission
February 10, 2016 -7:30 p.m.
Town Hall-Meeting Room B**

In attendance: Jean Stetz-Puchalski, Victor Alfandre, Laurel Fedor, Irv Silverman, Lori Cochran-Dougall, Ray Longo.

Absent: Sal Gilbertie,

Public: Joe Comis, 85 Bayberry Lane

I: Call to Order: 7:39 pm

II: Minutes: 1/13 lack of quorum – no meeting held – no minutes.

III: Updates & Reports:

- Farming on Town Land: need quarterly update from Sport Hill Farm. Their recent fundraiser generated significant donations for PTA and ELF. Ag Com will provide template for quarterly reports and boilerplate for press responses. Lori Cochran Dougall will draft template for boilerplate.
- Farming preservation efforts: see below under New Business.
- Mapping agriculturally rich soils: see below under New Business.
- Planning for Ag: revisions are being made to POCD. Scheduled feedback session with Town planner 4/18/16. Come to next meeting prepared with what we want to discuss. Some examples: widening perspective on farming to include farms of 30 acres or less; 490 criteria; farm friendly zoning; current inventory of all farms and 490's.
- Update to Ag resources portal on town website: Laurel Fedor to check website to evaluate resources for farmers/town board and commissions to make sure they are current.

IV New Business:

- Update list of Easton farms and ag suppliers: must update for POCD to facilitate application discussed below. Motion to complete updated list by 3/9. RL will get list of current 490 and pending 490 applications. LCD will reach out to Stone Gardens and Jones Farm in Shelton to see how they participated in their town's application.
- David Brandt, executive dir. For Aspetuck Land Trust (ALT) asked for letter of support for preservation of Gilbertie's farm on Adams Road: request tabled pending more specifics.
- Discussion underway with Owner and ALT to preserve Gilbertie's farm by leveraging Dept of Ag Community Farms Preservation Program funding and sale of development rights to Town. Commission discussed boarder topic of working with Town to preserve farmland under this program. Jean spoke with Catherine Winslow at state Dept. of Ag. about the Community Farms Preservation Program process and application requirements. State provides 75% of money/ town, with any outside help they can get, provides the other 25%. There are defined hurdles: we have met some (eg. passing a Right to Farm Ord., establishing an Ag. Commission), but must map agriculturally rich soils in Easton prior to being eligible to apply for funding. Shelton and Newtown have successfully completed this process. Will contact them and meet with our own Town officials to discuss opportunities and steps Town needs to take to be ready for an application of this sort. Motion made by VA, 2nd IS, to move this through the First Selectman's office – carried unanimously.

V Public Comment: Joe Comis, 85 Bayberry Lane: New to town and interested in resources for farming.

Adjournment: 8:50PM

Minutes submitted by Victor Alfandre, Recording Secretary *Victor Alfandre*