

**Regular Meeting Minutes of the Easton Agricultural Commission**  
**Wednesday, January 13, 2021 – 7:45PM**  
**Virtual Zoom Meeting**

In attendance: Matt Oricchio, Irv Silverman, Jean Stetz-Puchalski

Absent: Victor Alfandre, Lori Cochran Dougall, Denise Hebner, and Sage Rega

1. Meeting called to order at 7:50PM
2. Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve minutes from the last meeting made by Matt Oricchio, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Irv Silverman. Motion passed unanimously.
3. Public Comment: Brittany Conover attends as our liaison to the Fairfield County CT Farm Bureau and an Easton Farmer from Shaggy Coos. FC Farm Bureau will hold an open meeting to review bylaws. Members invited to attend to listen in. Brittany shared the news of her new role in working with CT NOFA, UConn extension and New CT Farmers Alliance, highlighting a project called the Farmers' Circles which is a peer-to-peer mentoring initiative. Brittany asked farmers to consider participating in this outreach program that connects new farmers to mentors. Jean Stetz-Puchalski will post information to the news and updates section of the Ag Com web portal on the Town website. See link under Correspondence section of these minutes.
4. Updates & Reports
  - a. Discussed ongoing Ag Com Covid-19 advisory activities helping Town, farms and farm stands to adapt to changing conditions. Committed to website updates, highlighting success stories, challenges.
  - b. Discussion on Member and Alternate status tabled until February meeting.
  - c. Discussed updates to Farmland Preservation Projects. Awaiting closing of Barney Farmland Preservation project. State updated the information to reflect an April timeframe for close.
  - d. Onboarding Project underway led by Jean Stetz-Puchalski. Purpose is to provide documentation to onboard appointed members and alternates to this Commission. Will include information needed to fully understand how we operate to meet our mission as set out by Town ordinance; introduce the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) guidelines that dictate filing procedures of minutes and reports to the Town as well as other protocols; provide the history and timeline of work of the Commission over the years; provide introduction to facilitation, presence, team culture, and norms. Workgroup: Jean Stetz-Puchalski, Victor Alfandre, Denise Hebner.
5. Correspondence:
  - a. From Brittany Conover, Shaggy Coos Farm sent electronically:  
*Hello! I have recently become a part of the outreach program for Farmer's Circles by working with CT NOFA, UConn extension and New CT Farmers Alliance. Below is a link with more information about the peer- to- peer circles. If you are interested in participating or know another farmer who might be interested, please fill out this survey.*  
[https://uconn.col.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_1WZMCKinue4BkdD](https://uconn.col.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1WZMCKinue4BkdD)  
*See <https://newctfarmers.com/farmer-circles/>. See you all soon, Britt*
6. New Business: Silverman's Farm will be submitting a letter to Ag Com/BoS for consideration as farmer to succeed Speckled Rooster Farm in lease at SSES Plot A & B.
7. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn at 8:0PM by Matt Oricchio. 2<sup>nd</sup> Irv Silverman.

Submitted by Jean Stetz-Puchalski *Jean Stetz-Puchalski*

