

Minutes
Regular Meeting of the Easton Agricultural Commission
October 12, 2022 – 7:45 p.m.
Easton Library Community Room

In attendance Denise Hebner, Matt Oricchio, Victor Alfandre, Jake Conover

Absent: Lori Cochran Dougall, Jean Stetz-Puchalski, Amy Wolfcafe

Public: Chuck Welch, 82 Tranquility Drive; Allison Witherbe, 165 Staples Road, Diane Geyser
16 Golf View Drive, Justin

1. Meeting called to order at 7:50PM.
2. Victor Alfandre made a motion to appoint Matt Oricchio as Board Chair, with 2nd by Jake Conover. Motion passed unanimously.
3. Matt Oricchio moved to approve minutes from the September 14 meeting with 2nd by Victor Alfandre. Motion passed unanimously.
4. Public Comment. Allison Witherbe and Diane Geyser provided an update on Grow-A-Row. Over 800 pounds of produce collected and distributed to homebound Easton Seniors and Senior Centers in Bridgeport and Trumbull. Challenges include recruiting volunteers to deliver, expanding home gardener participation, encouraging farms to accept SNAP and having a pantry for excess food. Seeking Agricultural Commission support to spread the word on Ag website. Allison to provide information for posting, and explore other recommendations including Joel Barlow High School, Easton Boy and Girl Scout troops along with viability grant for a community garden.
5. Justin Giorlando, Town Planner, provided an update on 3400 Permitted Accessory Structures Draft. In discussion, the Agricultural Commission is recommending:
 - Adding Minor Accessory Farm Structure (under 200 square feet) which would allow farmers to operate with profit if not on a permanent foundation. Examples of use include cider press and wash and pack station for eggs and vegetables.
 - In Accessory Farm Processing Structure, change 'excluding the processing and/or slaughtering' to 'excluding the slaughtering'.
 - Agree with the proposal to limit fees for farmers including Agriculture Fee of \$25, Site Plan fee of \$25, Special Permit for Agriculture as \$200 and not requiring publication of Agriculture permits.
 - Add verbiage along with something along the lines need to retain the character of the town.
6. Correspondence: Anne Hughes State Farmers Eligible for Federal Assistance Due to Drought, Charles Welch comments on 3400 Permitted Accessory Structures, Genevieve Johnson Waterbury Accessory Farm Processing Structure, Joe Palmieri Permitted Accessory Structures, Richard Meinert Permitted Accessory Structures, and Laurel Fedor Objection to Petition for changes/additions to the Agriculture Regulations.
7. Victor moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 and Jake Conover second - motion passed unanimously.

Minutes submitted by Denise Hebner, Recording Secretary *Denise Hebner*



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DEBORAH SZEGEDI
TOWN CLERK EASTON CT

Memo

To: Justin Giordano, Town Land Use Director/P & Z
Karen Velky, Town of Easton Land Use/P & Z

From: Easton Agricultural Commission

Date: October 12, 2022

Re: Feedback as requested from the Town Land Use Director /P & Z regarding revisions to 3440 Permitted Accessory Structures post Court decision

At the October 12, 2022, regular meeting of the Agricultural Commission, the following feedback was discussed and offered to Town Land Use Director/ P & Z regarding 3440 Permitted Accessory Structures post:

- Add Minor Accessory Farm Structure (under 200 square feet). Inclusion would allow farmers to operate with profit if not on a permanent foundation. Examples of use include cider press and wash and pack station for eggs and vegetables.
- In Accessory Farm Processing Structure, change 'excluding the processing and/or slaughtering' to 'excluding the slaughtering'.
- The Town proposal to limit fees for farmers to Agriculture Fee of \$25, Site Plan fee of \$25, Special Permit for Agriculture as \$200 and not requiring publication of Agriculture permits appear to take the rising cost of farming under consideration.
- Add verbiage that land use retains the character of the Town.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on these revisions. If there are subsistent revisions, we recommend the Ag Commission have the opportunity to review and provide feedback.