



INSTR # M2015000833
DATE FILED 11/25/2015 08:33:01 AM
CHRISTINE HALLDRAH
TOWN CLERK
EASTON CT

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
November 11, 2015 -7:30 p.m.
Town Hall-Meeting Room A**

In attendance: Jean Stetz-Puchalski, Victor Alfandre, Laurel Fedor, Ray Longo.

Absent: Irv Silverman, Lori Cochran-Dougall, Sal Gilbertie,

I: Call to Order: 7:35 pm

II: Minutes: Motion to approve by Laurel Fedor, second by Ray Longo, approved unanimously.

III: Reports

- Update on farming at Morehouse Rd: Board of Selectmen (BoS) approved lease extension through 2018. Pumpkin sale successful. A portion of the proceeds donated to PTA.
- Wrap-up from meeting on 9/15 at Monroe Grange (*Transitioning the Family Farm*): 20 or so attendees: LF in attendance. Topics included business marketing and estate planning. Strategies were discussed to separate land from \$ to preserve viability of multi-generational farming. Will add some materials from event to website.
- Wrap-up from CT Farm Bureau workshop on tax reduction for farmers on 10/16 at Easton Grange: great turnout, 60 plus attendees. Upshot is that there are some tax benefits not being realized here in town. Ag Commission will bring information through channels about how to proceed with advocating for adoption of available tax reduction programs so that town may make an informed choice. Resources for tax reductions are available on Ag com website.
- P & Z receiving draft of revisions to Town P & Z regulations. Easton farmers have been encouraged to be part of the process to have their voices and needs met. P & Z suggested that the consultant is receiving feedback rather than their commission. Our commission remains interested in how the needs of the farmers intersect with the planning for agriculture in the process of revising regulations. Curious about how much experience the consultants have in revising agricultural regs in town's like Easton and where does feedback come into play. Since 2012 we have offered resources to P & Z in an effort to help our town navigate the balance between planning for town and meeting the needs of farming community to reduce sell off of farmland, reduce impact of developer pressures and maintaining open space. Will contact P & Z to obtain contact information and process by which farmers may offer input directly as suggested by P & Z.

IV Resources on planning for Ag:

- Will revisit brochure idea promoting Easton as a farming destination with value on maintaining open space.

V New Business:

- Discussion of moving to bi-monthly meetings for 2016. Rejected by commission. Will continue with meeting at Town Hall meeting room A on the 2nd Wednesdays at 7:30 PM 1/13,2/10,3/9,4/13,5/11,6/8,7/13,8/10,9/14,10/12,11/9,12/14,1/11/17 unless otherwise noted. Motion to approve calendar of above meetings at 7:30pm by LF; second by Victor Alfandre; approved unanimously.

Motion to Adjourn: 8:50PM

Minutes submitted by Victor Alfandre, Recording Secretary
Victor Alfandre