



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



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CHRISTINE HALLORAN
TOWN CLERK
EASTON CT

Minutes

**Meeting of the Easton Agricultural Commission
December 13, 2017 - 7:30 p.m.
Town Hall-Meeting Room A**

In attendance: Jean Stetz-Puchalski, Victor Alfandre, Laurel Fedor, Irv Silverman

Absent: Lori Cochran-Dougall, Sal Gilbertie, Ray Longo

Public: Bob Ocegueda, Tim Brady

I: Call to Order: 7:40pm

: Minutes: Motion to approve by Irv Silverman, 2nd by Laurel Fedor. Passed unanimously.

III: Updates & Reports:

- Support for Lori Cochran Dougall and Nate Dougall's campaign to have Easton named the Christmas Tree Capital of Connecticut continues. Ag Com put into use "Easton - The Christmas Tree Capital of Connecticut" on the Easton Town website and encouraged Farmers to put the tagline into use.
- Tabled the discussion of language in the SSES lease.
- Plan submitted for meetings: set meeting dates and secured the room a, but will pursue offsite meetings at local farms on a case by case basis.
- Jean Stetz-Puchalski audited Ag Com page on website. Ag Com set a goal to keep new information posted to engage community. Collaborating with Town Clerk to keep website current & posting updated.
- Laurel Fedor will print out list of current farms and bring to next meeting to review and update – goal to keep content current and invite new farms to be visible and active on the site as a community builder
- Local Educational opportunities for farmers: SCORE sponsored an event in November; UCONN Ext. sponsoring trainings in Bethel. Announced on Ag Com page on Town website: <http://www.eastonct.gov/agricultural-commission>. Notified farm community through "subscribe to Easton news" feature on Town website
- Annual report for 2017: reviewed and edited. Victor Alfandre will edit and bring to January meeting.

IV Correspondence:

- None

V Public Comment:

- Discussed the ongoing effort to write the POCD. Tim Brady attended the latest P&Z meeting where POCD discussed. Had questions regarding data presented and called it to our attention. Felt tone was positive and helpful; Commission curious about why recommendations and data from Ag Com presentation and recommendations to the POCD made to John Hayes and P&Z in 2016 were not in the current draft. Jean Stetz-Puchalski will circle back to Planning office to remind John Hayes & Planning & Zoning that recommendations are available and in their minutes to help bring current the Ag section of the POCD.
- Tim Brady thanks the Commission and called attention to the resurgence of farming in Easton, both on large, established farms and small, specialty farms. Overall more land in Ag production now than 10 years ago. Local food movement is a big driver, especially for small farms. Effort is to propel farming into prominence as part of Easton's future.
- Bob O suggested a new website to track what's available at local farms. Ag Com suggested a visit to Farms listing on Town website where each Farm has the opportunity to add a hyperlink to their own websites and share.

Adjournment: 8:51pm

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



Easton Library

A FREE Small Business Workshop Co-Sponsored by ...Easton Public Library and the USDA

The Business of Farming -- How USDA and SCORE Can Help

Wednesday, November 29, 2017

4:30 PM to 6:00 PM | check-in starts at 4:00 PM

691 Morehouse Road Easton, CT 06612

Description:

Agricultural related businesses are a critical component of our state's economy. There are over 400 farms in Fairfield County and almost 6,000 statewide. This workshop will provide information to local farm and ranch owned businesses regarding the business mentoring and educational services available from the USDA and from SCORE.

- The programs available from the Farm Service Agency to help farmers and ranchers have sustainable businesses
- Other state resources who are available to guide and help local agricultural business owners
- Business mentoring and education available from SCORE and the USDA
- How to engage SCORE or USDA in securing business help

Presenters: Aimee Fusco and Bill Pressley

Aimee is the County Executive Director for Litchfield and Fairfield County. A Connecticut Native, Aimee has worked with local farmers for the last 6 years through her employment with the USDA. In her current position with the Farm Service Agency, she administers farm and conservation programs in order to maintain a self-sustaining food supply in the United States.

Bill has over 30 years of experience working in the Information Technology area, holding positions in sales, marketing, corporate finance, and product administration. He worked with customers from small business to large corporations in leveraging information technology to run their businesses. He has a BS in Math from the University of Illinois and an MBA from the University of Chicago. Bill has a business coaching practice and has been a SCORE mentor for 5 years.



Register for this event: <http://conta.cc/2yTdVkG>

Reserve Early: Visit – bit.ly/FairfieldWorkshops Sign-up bit.ly/SCOREMentor Call - (203) 831-0065
Email: score.fairfieldcounty@gmail.com Text SCOREFC to 22828 to be added to our mailing list

As a non-profit Resource Partner of The U.S. Small Business Administration, SCORE Runs Workshops and Provides Free Counseling to New and Existing Small Businesses