

**Minutes**  
**Meeting of the Easton Agricultural Commission**  
**November 11, 2020 7:45 p.m.**

**Held Virtually Via Zoom Video Conference Zoom Meeting**

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Meeting ID: 850 3772 9834

**In attendance** Jean Stetz-Puchalski, Irv Silverman, Denise Hebner, Matt Oricchio, Victor Alfandre, Lori Cochran Dougall

**Absent:** Sage Rega

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 7:45 p.m.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Matt Oricchio made a motion, and Victor Alfandre 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed.
3. **Public Comment:** Brittany Conover, liaison to CT Fairfield County Farm Bureau, informed the commission that the bureau is interested in expanding the demographic diversity of the Board.
4. **Updates & Reports**
  - Discuss on going Ag Com Covid-19 advisory activities helping Town, farms and farms and farm stands to adapt to changing conditions. Shaggy Coos challenged with meat processing given limited capacity, Silverman's planning on balancing curbside versus in store shopping, Westport Farmers Market transitioning to indoor – although attendance through the summer was down 25%, the sales per buyer were up. State provided new Covid-19 rules – link will be provided to update the Ag Commission website.
  - Discuss Farmland Preservation and status of current project. Conservation Commission recommended the spend of the Preservation fund. Board of Finance approved the spend, which will protect 37.29 acres from development. In January, the Agriculture Commission to create a project to engage town entities, i.e. Citizens for Easton and Conservation Commission to create asset flow for a sustainable Farmland Preservation Fund.
  - Discuss progress with succession of farmer participating in Farming Project on Town Land: SSES. Irv Silverman and Jake Conover will provide a recommendation on developing the land, which may include a third party to help with the educational component. Matt Oricchio resigning from lease.
  - Discuss and take possible action on the creation of an orientation program for new members/alternates to Ag Com for accelerated onboarding and effective participation. Jean Stetz-Puchalski shared the need to develop onboarding documentation to join the Agriculture Commission. Jean will commence draft with help from Denise Hebner and Victor Alfandre.
5. **Correspondence:** none
6. **New Business:** Victor Alfandre resigned as Recording Secretary, with Denise Hebner assuming the role as a contributor.
7. **Adjournment:** Motion made to adjourn meeting at 8:44 p.m. by Victor Alfandre and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Irv Silverman.

Minutes submitted by Denise Hebner *Denise Hebner*

INSTR # M2020000819  
REC'D 12/07/2020 03:20:40 PM  
CHRISTINE HALLORAN TOWN CLERK EASTON CT