



**MINUTES
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
January 13, 2026
7:00 PM - TOWN HALL-ENFIELD ROOM
820 Enfield St, Enfield, CT**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair LaPlante called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Karen LaPlante, Kathleen Vose, William Cote, Michael Dynia, Gretchen Pfeifer-Hall, Dean Syed, Nancy Wyzga (arrived at 7:23), Jeremy Dugas, Megan Kelley

Absent: None

Also Present Stephen Hiney, Assistant Town Planner; and Rebecca Jones, Recording Secretary

Commissioner Kelley was seated as a voting member until Commissioner Wyzga's arrival at 7:23pm.

Chair LaPlante welcomed the new members, who each shared about their interest in serving on the commission.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. December 9, 2025

MOTION by: Michael Dynia **seconded:** William Cote to approve the December 9, 2025 meeting minutes.

Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall requested a correction on Page 1, Paragraph 6 from "P-490" to "PA-490".

MOTION by: Michael Dynia **seconded:** William Cote to approve the December 9, 2025 meeting minutes as amended.

UPON A SHOW OF HANDS VOTE, the Chair declared the motion approved. Yes: Karen LaPlante, Kathleen Vose, William Cote, Michael Dynia, Gretchen Pfeifer-Hall, Megan Kelley No: None Abstain: None.

4. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

6. CORRESPONDENCE/STAFF REPORT

The Connecticut Association of Wetland Scientists annual meeting will be held on March 4, 2026 at the Aqua Turf. Commissioners interested in attending should contact Donna Richer in the Planning Department. Commissioner Kelley shared information about a webinar being held on January 15, 2026 by the Connecticut Food System Alliance related to incorporating locally grown food in prisons. She also shared information about the Regenerative Agriculture Conference being held at the Westerly, RI Armory on January 31 and February 1, 2026. There will be training sessions being held by Solid Ground at UConn on a variety of dates related to agricultural mechanics like small stroke engines and blade sharpening.

Chair LaPlante shared information related to increases tied to the state's updated farmland tax program. State officials issued revised figures earlier this month, but farmers are concerned about the increase and the viability of working farmers. Chair LaPlante created a Word document detailing the tax increases over time through information she received from the Connecticut Agricultural Bureau. She will forward the commissioners an email with more details.

Commissioner Wyzga arrived at 7:23pm. Commissioner Kelley resumed her alternate position at this time.

7. APPROVAL OF INVOICES/OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS

None.

8. REPORTS OF OFFICERS, COMMITTEES AND STAFF

The Town Clerk issued a memo stating that a member of the Agricultural Commission is to serve on the TIF Committee. Mr. Hiney stated that he was not aware of this and will confirm with appropriate town staff. Commissioner Cote explained the location of the TIF District. Chair LaPlante would like to revive the Farm Summit. The Commission has held two summits in the past at Asnuntuck, which included information booths and seminars.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Farm Friendly Zoning Regulations

Mr. Hiney provided a brief update as to the review of the proposed draft bylaws. Commissioner Dugas requested that a copy of the draft regulations be sent to him.

B. List of Priority Parcels for Community Farmland Preservation

Chair LaPlante noted that she is still waiting for the list of farmland from the Assessor's Office.

10. NEW BUSINESS

A. Amendment of By-Laws

8Mr. Hiney explained that as the bylaws currently read, this commission does not have a liaison serving on the Economic Development Commission. The Economic Development Commission bylaws state that there must be a member from both commissions appointed as ex-officio members. Chair LaPlante asked if the bylaws allow for an alternate member to be appointed. Chair Cote asked if one person could represent both commissions as Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall currently shares updates on behalf of both. The commissioners discussed the role of an ex-officio member and if they are allowed to vote.

MOTION by: Michael Dynia to table this until more information is given to staff. No one seconded the motion and the motion failed.

MOTION by: William Cote **seconded:** Kathleen Vose to accept the amendment to Section 6.5 as written in the Agricultural Commission bylaws.

UPON A SHOW OF HANDS VOTE, the Chair declared the motion approved. Yes: Karen LaPlante, Kathleen Vose, William Cote, Michael Dynia, Dean Syed, Gretchen Pfeifer-Hall, Nancy Wyzga No: None Abstain: None.

The commissioners continued to review the bylaws in relation to ex-officio members and election of officers. Chair LaPlante requested that the previously approved motion be rescinded as Section 6.5 is not where the intended change was to be made but under "Membership" instead.

MOTION by: William Cote **seconded:** Michael Dynia to withdraw the vote of the previous motion.

UPON A SHOW OF HANDS VOTE, the Chair declared the motion approved. Yes: Karen LaPlante, Kathleen Vose, William Cote, Michael Dynia, Dean Syed, Gretchen Pfeifer-Hall, Nancy Wyzga No: None Abstain: None.

MOTION by: William Cote **seconded:** Kathleen Vose to send the bylaws back to Town staff to revise the article references throughout the document.

UPON A SHOW OF HANDS VOTE, the Chair declared the motion approved. Yes: Karen LaPlante, Kathleen Vose, William Cote, Michael Dynia, Dean Syed, Gretchen Pfeifer-Hall, Nancy Wyzga No: None Abstain: None.

B. Appointment of Liaison to Economic Development Commission

MOTION by: Michael Dynia **seconded:** Nancy Wyzga to table the appointment of a liaison to Economic Development Commission until the bylaws are revised.

UPON A SHOW OF HANDS VOTE, the Chair declared the motion approved. Yes: Karen

LaPlante, Kathleen Vose, Michael Dynia, Dean Syed, Gretchen Pfeifer-Hall, Nancy Wyzga No:
William Cote Abstain: None.

11. DATE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING

A. February 10, 2026

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by: William Cote, seconded: Michael Dynia to adjourn.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared the motion adopted unanimously, and the meeting stood adjourned at 8:09 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Vose

Secretary

Rebecca Jones

Recording Secretary