

ENFIELD AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday July 13, 2021

A Regular Meeting of the Enfield Agricultural Commission was called to order by Chair Karen LaPlante in the Enfield Town Hall, 820 Enfield Street, Enfield, Connecticut on Tuesday, July 13, 2021 @ 7:04 PM

Fire Evacuation Announcement

Roll Call

Kathy Vose took the roll.

Present - Chair LaPlante, Commissioner Kober, Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall, Commissioner Vose, Commissioner Wyzga, Commissioner McGuire and Commissioner Sacerdote.

Also present: Georgie Driver – Staff and Karen Timpone – Recording secretary

Absent – Commissioner Dynia and Commissioner Cote

Chair LaPlante empowered Commissioner Kober as a voting member for this meeting.

Approval of Minutes - A motion to accept minutes of June 8, 2021 was made by Commissioner Kober seconded by Commissioner Sacerdote – No discussion – 6/0/1 abstention by Commissioner McGuire

Public Participation – None

Unfinished Business -

POCD Update – Chair LaPlante asked for ideas for the POCD. Some comments pertaining to AGG in the draft document were up on the screen for Commissioners to see – (Page 20 – 38). Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall referred to Page 21 – which should include farm friendly regulations more than just right to farm notations. Chair LaPlante asked Georgie to could get copies of the Farm Friendly Regulations through the Working Land Alliance to give to all commissioners. Commissioner McGuire stated that once regulations are written there is no recourse – ex., a property with only 2 horses (if the regs state 5 acres for 2 horses) that is poorly run versus a farm with 6 horses that is run efficiently on 5 acres. He also stated that towns that have made hard rules punish people that could be farming but do not meet the exact criteria. Zoning regulations would be okay and be farm friendly. Farm friendly ordinances without being too specific can be detrimental. Commissioner McGuire would like to see ordinances that promote farming but not giving hard numbers or criteria to meet, he would rather give the Zoning officer the ability to determine if a farm is being managed properly instead of just counting how many animals are on the farm. If it is mismanaged they should be able to give the Zoning officer the ability to step in. Chair LaPlante would like to see increased acreage in the farmland preservation. Preserve, support and promote a vibrant agricultural industry in Enfield. Protecting the soil types in Enfield. Chair LaPlante shared a map from 2010 with land in 490 and soil types in Enfield. This map will be updated. Commissioner Kober asked about an Agritourist zone which gets the public involved and public support. Commissioner Sacerdote stated the people have to be respectful of the land/farm which is hard to educate and enforce to the visitors. Pick your own is part of Agritourism. Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall asked besides pick your own what are other types of Agritourism. Commissioner Sacerdote stated hay mazes, corn mazes, pumpkin patches, horseback riding, wedding photos, petting zoos. Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall asked, how

this can be included in the POCD. A public outreach would have to be implemented for education. Georgie said there is probably a grant that the EAC can apply for the education portion.

New Business – None

Correspondence / All Commissioners & Staff – They received a letter from Aquarion looking for nominees for The Environment Champion Awards. The EAC decided to pass as it had a deadline of Friday, July 16, 2021.

Meeting Time Change Discussion – Change to 6:30 pm meeting time - This will be discussed further at the September 2021 meeting.

Next Meeting Date – September 14, 2021 @ 7PM – This is the annual meeting and voting of officers will take place.

Adjournment – A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Sacerdote and seconded by Commissioner Kober – No discussion – passed unanimously 7/0/0

The meeting was adjourned @ 8:03 PM