



**MINUTES
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
March 12, 2024
7:00 PM - ENFIELD ROOM**

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Karen LaPlante called the meeting to order at 7:13pm.

ROLL CALL

Present: Bill Cote, Michael Dynia , Karen LaPlante, Gretchen Pfeifer-Hall, Kathleen Vose, Nancy Wyzga

Absent:

Also present was Rebecca Jones, Recording Secretary.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

February 13, 2024

MOTION by: Bill Cote seconded: Nancy Wyzga to accept the minutes.

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

CORRESPONDENCE/STAFF REPORT

Commissioner Wyzga spoke about solar farms replacing farmland. Commissioner Cote confirmed that these are regulated by the Connecticut Siting Council. There is a bill being proposed to give towns some regulation over solar farms.

Chairperson LaPlante shared documentation related to PFAS chemicals and the hazards of biosolids. She shared a few examples of farms located in Maine that have been affected by biosolids. PFAS are being found in soils that were contaminated over 20 years ago. This is being found across the country and she believes it will be found in Connecticut. She also shared information related to upcoming relevant bills.

APPROVAL OF INVOICES/OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS

None.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS, COMMITTEES AND STAFF

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Review of Bylaws
2. Farm Friendly Zoning Regulations
3. Discussion on possible tax abatements for farmers

1. Review of Bylaws

Chairperson LaPlante shared that Georgienna Driver, Assistant Town Planner, had completed the bylaw revisions. She believes that the Commission can vote on the bylaws at this meeting. Chairperson LaPlante noted a minor spelling error and will email Ms. Driver to alert her of the error.

MOTION by: Bill Cote, seconded: Nancy Wyzga to adopt the Agricultural Commission bylaws.

Upon a **SHOW OF HANDS** vote, the Chair declared **MOTION** adopted. Yes: Bill Cote, Michael Dynia , Karen LaPlante, Gretchen Pfeifer-Hall, Kathleen Vose, Nancy Wyzga No: None Abstain: None.

2. Farm Friendly Zoning Regulations

Matt Davis, Assistant Town Planner, has left and Chairperson LaPlante believes that these will be put on the back burner for now. She plans to have a conversation with Frank Alaimo, PZC Chair, before their next meeting.

3. Discussion of Possible Tax Abatements for Farmers

There will be a roundtable discussion in April to help discuss the possible tax abatements to farmers. Chairperson LaPlante explained that there is not a comprehensive list of farmers in Enfield and she will reach out to the Assessor's Office to see if they can generate one in hopes of notifying them of this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

DATE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING

April 9, 2024

ADJOURNMENT

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

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION** accepted unanimously, and the meeting stood adjourned at 7:39 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Vose
Secretary

Rebecca Jones
Recording Secretary