



**MINUTES
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
April 9, 2024
7:00 PM - ENFIELD ROOM**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair LaPlante called the meeting to order at 7:09 PM.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: William Paul Cote, Karen LaPlante, Gretchen Pfeifer-Hall, Kathleen Vose,
Nancy Wyzga

Absent: Michael Dynia

Also present was Rebecca Jones, Recording Secretary.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. March 12, 2024

MOTION by: William Cote **seconded:** Kathleen Vose to approve the March 12, 2024 meeting minutes.

UPON A ROLL CALL VOTE, the Chair declared the motion approved. Yes: William Cote, Karen LaPlante, Gretchen Pfeifer-Hall, Kathleen Vose, Nancy Wyzga No: None Abstain: None.

4. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

6. CORRESPONDENCE/STAFF REPORT

None.

7. APPROVAL OF INVOICES/OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS

None.

8. REPORTS OF OFFICERS, COMMITTEES AND STAFF

None.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Review of Bylaws

Chair LaPlante noted that there was one remaining correction that was missed by the Town staff. There is a spelling error in the heading of Section 2 of the bylaws.

MOTION by: Gretchen Pfeifer-Hall **seconded:** William Cote to approve changes to the Agricultural Commission bylaws pending the spelling correction.

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

B. Farm Friendly Zoning Regulations

Chair LaPlante spoke with Joan Nichols of the Farm Bureau about farm-friendly zoning regulations. Chair LaPlante is hesitant to reach out to Frank Alaimo, Chair of the Planning and Zoning Commission, but has to initiate conversation with the board about beginning to review potential changes. She may go speak during public participation at a future PZC meeting.

C. Discussion on possible tax abatements for farmers

Chair LaPlante shared an overview of the special meeting with local farmers and members of the Town Council related to potential tax abatement options. A draft letter to the Town Council was reviewed, which detailed options and other pertinent information related to this meeting.

MOTION by: William Cote **seconded:** Nancy Wyzga to adopt the letter with changes.

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

10. NEW BUSINESS

The commissioners discussed updating and establishing a priority parcels list for open space protection. They also must identify high priority agricultural parcels for preservation. This will be done by completing an inventory and ranking for prime agricultural soils. Commissioner Cote noted this must be done in steps as it will be an extensive project.

11. DATE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING

A. May 14, 2024

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by: William Cote, seconded: Kathleen Vose to adjourn.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared the motion adopted unanimously, and the meeting stood adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Prepared by: Rebecca Jones, Recording Secretary.