



**MINUTES
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
May 14, 2024
7:00 PM - AMENDED AGENDA
THOMPSONVILLE ROOM**

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Michael Dynia

Also present was Recording Secretary; Rebecca Jones.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Special Meeting of April 3, 2024

MOTION by: Nancy Wyzga seconded: Kathleen Vose to accept the April 3, 2024 special meeting minutes.

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

B. Regular Meeting of April 9, 2024

MOTION by: Nancy Wyzga seconded: Kathleen Vose to accept the April 9, 2024 regular meeting minutes.

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

4. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

6. CORRESPONDENCE/STAFF REPORT

Chair Laplante shared an email from the Connecticut Farm Bureau, which gave updates and information on new programs available for Connecticut farmers.

7. APPROVAL OF INVOICES/OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS

The commissioners spoke about farm preservation funds and their allocation in the next fiscal year's budget. Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall noted that it does not appear to be clearly separated in the budget with its own line item.

MOTION by: William Paul Cote **seconded:** Kathleen Vose to add 'Discussion of priority parcels' under Unfinished Business.

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

8. REPORTS OF OFFICERS, COMMITTEES AND STAFF

None.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Farm Friendly Zoning Regulations

Chair Laplante has not heard anything from Planning and Zoning Commission related to changing the zoning ordinances. There appears to be very little movement with regulation review. Commissioner Cote encouraged Chair Laplante to email PZC Chair Frank Alaimo and the Town Councilors who were present at the recent special meeting to urge them to review the farm friendly zoning regulations prior to reviewing any potential tax abatements.

B. Update on tax abatement ordinances

Chair Laplante sent a email to the Town Council endorsing the tax abatement ordinances. The new assessor was not included on the email and Commissioner Cote encouraged Chair Laplante to send it to her as well. Chair Laplante has spent time reviewing other municipalities with similar ordinances. She requested assistance from the other commissioners in preparing drafts and being prepared for the potential creation of a subcommittee.

C. Solar Farm - 141 Town Farm Road - Siting Council Hearing - May 16th

Chair Laplante will be testifying at the upcoming hearing held on May 16th by the Connecticut Siting Council. She has prepared a statement that she will read and she shared portions of it with the commission. Town Attorney Tyler will be present during the hearing.

MOTION by: William Paul Cote **seconded:** Nancy Wyzga to approve the statement as written by Chair Laplante to be presented on behalf of the Conservation Commission.

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.

D. Priority Parcels Discussion

The commissioners discussed the inventory of priority parcels. They reviewed specific historic parcels and will discuss at the next meeting.

10. NEW BUSINESS

None.

11. DATE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING

A. June 11, 2024

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by: William Paul Cote, seconded: Nancy Wyzga to adjourn.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared the motion adopted unanimously, and the meeting stood adjourned at 8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Vose
Secretary

Rebecca Jones
Recording Secretary