



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

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair LaPlante called the meeting to order at 7:08pm.

2. ROLL CALL

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

Absent: None.

Also present was Planning and Zoning Commission liaison Christian D'Antonio and Recording Secretary; Rebecca Jones.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. October 8, 2024

MOTION by: William Paul Cote **seconded:** Kathleen Vose to approve the October 8, 2024 meeting minutes.

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

4. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

6. CORRESPONDENCE/STAFF REPORT

None.

7. APPROVAL OF INVOICES/OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS

Connecticut Farm Bureau dues were paid and their membership has been renewed. Approval was not received in time for the annual dinner so Chair LaPlante did not attend.

8. REPORTS OF OFFICERS, COMMITTEES AND STAFF

The zoning subcommittee met and will be discussed later in the meeting.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Farm Friendly Zoning Regulations

Chair LaPlante circulated a 7-page document that included ideas that PZC may want to include and consider during their decision-making process. She created new definitions and revised others. She noted that there are areas that need to be discussed further, including portions related to special permits. Any time a definition is used throughout the document, it is bold. Commissioner Wyzga expressed concern about the word 'wildlife' being used to describe farms. Chair LaPlante explained that is from the state definitions and historically, farmers raised mink. Commissioner Wyzga opined it is too vague. Chair LaPlante read through the statement of purpose and asked for feedback. Commissioner Cote preferred the language used by the Town of Ellington. The commissioners agreed to revise the statement to highlight the fact that Enfield is still an agricultural town. Chair LaPlante reviewed information in DEP's Best Practices guidelines and read a portion stating that farms should follow this document.

Commissioner D'Antonio arrived at 7:30pm.

Chair LaPlante welcomed Commissioner D'Antonio and provided him with a brief overview of the commission's work on the zoning regulations thus far. Chair LaPlante continued to read the document line-by-line, asking for the commissioner's input on each area of discussion. She noted she is unsure if the book citations are grammatically correct but all resources used during her research have been listed.

B. Update on Tax Abatement Ordinances

Chair LaPlante believes that this likely will not be acted upon by the Town Council.

C. Solar Farm - 141 Town Farm Road - Siting Council Hearing Update

The court ruled in favor of the solar farm.

D. List of priority parcels for Community Farmland Preservation

Chair LaPlante is continuing to work on this. The commissioners discussed a parcel they were previously interested in near the Scantic River, which has now been purchased by Jarmoc Farms.

10. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2025 Meeting Calendar

MOTION by: William Cote **seconded:** Michael Dynia to approve the 2025 meeting calendar.

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

11. DATE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING

A. December 10, 2024

12. ADJOURNMENT

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

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION** adopted unanimously, and the meeting stood adjourned at 8:48pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Vose

Secretary

Rebecca Jones

Recording Secretary