



**MINUTES
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
December 10, 2024
7:00 PM - ENFIELD ROOM**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair LaPlante called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

2. ROLL CALL

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

Absent:

Also present was Planning and Zoning Commission liaison Christian D'Antonio; Assistant Town Planner Stephen Hiney; and Recording Secretary Rebecca Jones.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. November 12, 2024

MOTION by: William Paul Cote **seconded:** Gretchen Pfeifer-Hall to approve the November 12, 2024 meeting minutes.

UPON A SHOW OF HANDS VOTE, the Chair declared the motion approved. Yes: William Cote, Michael Dynia, 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. Farm Friendly Zoning Regulations

Mr. Hiney shared a document he created that shows where the farm related zoning regulations are located in the current zoning regulations. Chair LaPlante shared the document she created and explained the different components. She created and refined several definitions that Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall opined should be included in the zoning regulations. Chair LaPlante explained the value of having such firm definitions, especially during Planning and Zoning meetings. The commissioners discussed the definition of farm stands and farm stores first. They reviewed surrounding towns' definitions and debated what should be allowed to be sold at each stand. Existing farm stands and stores would be grandfathered in should any changes be made. By definition, a farm in Enfield is three acres or more. Farm stands should be able to exist on plots smaller than that. Mr. Hiney directed the commission to focus on the definitions only, not on other specifics like special permit requirements or parking requirements. That is something staff can work on later in the process. The commissioners agreed to use the US Congress definition for 'locally grown'. The commissioners discussed definitions for 'cut your own' and 'pick your own'. Definitions related to solar farms were reviewed. Setback requirements for solar panels were reviewed. Chair LaPlante wanted to add definitions for terrace escarpments but Mr. Hiney explained that this is not tied to agriculture and does not need to be discussed. Chair LaPlante explained that there may need to be another subcommittee meeting to continue this review. Mr. Hiney discussed the potential of using footnotes in the definitions.

B. Update on Tax Abatement Ordinances

Chair LaPlante asked staff to take this off the agenda as it is likely a dead item.

C. List of priority parcels for Community Farmland Preservation

Chair LaPlante noted that she is still waiting for the map that Ms. Driver said she would create for the commissioners at the October meeting. Chair LaPlante would like to modify the request and add an aquifer protection overlay and a list of the preserved farms. She feels many farms are in the aquifer protection area and do not know it.

10. NEW BUSINESS

None.

11. DATE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING

A. January 14, 2025

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by: William Paul Cote, seconded: Michael Dynia to adjourn.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared the motion adopted unanimously, and the meeting stood adjourned at 8:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen Vose
Secretary

Rebecca Jones
Recording Secretary