



**MINUTES
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
January 14, 2025
7:00 PM - Town Hall - Enfield Room
820 Enfield St, Enfield, CT**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair LaPlante called the meeting to order at 7:10pm.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: William Paul Cote, Michael Dynia, Karen LaPlante, Kathleen Vose, Nancy Wyzga

Absent: Gretchen Pfeifer-Hall

Also present were Christian D'Antonio, PZC liaison; Linda DeGray, PZC chairperson; Stephen Hiney, Assistant Town Planner; and Rebecca Jones, Recording Secretary.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. December 10, 2024

MOTION by: Kathleen Vose **seconded:** Nancy Wyzga to approve the December 10, 2024 meeting minutes.

UPON A SHOW OF HANDS VOTE, the Chair declared the motion approved. Yes: William Paul Cote, Michael Dynia, KAREN LAPLANTE, 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

Chair LaPlante circulated a copy of proposed farm friendly zoning regulations that she drafted. Mr. Hiney reviewed the document and stated that staff would like more of a role in drafting these regulations. The goal is to make these regulations more farm friendly and some of what Chair LaPlante has drafted is too restrictive. She explained that she is not trying to write the regulations but give a clear definition of what things should mean and recommend things that zoning should consider when they come upon that use. Mr. Hiney explained that are many details in that document that are not typically definitions but rather regulations. Commissioner Cote stated many of these definitions come from neighboring communities and are likely a good addition to wherever the Planning staff see fit. Mr. Hiney asked if any of the commissioners have ideas for agricultural uses that should be added into the regulations, for example 'grow your own, cut your own'. The commissioner discussed beekeeping and setback requirements. Accessory buildings were discussed as were other activities such as weddings. Chair LaPlante shared concerns about clearing land and soil quality. Mr. Hiney explained that site plan applications are not approved or reviewed based on suspicion but on the facts presented in the application. Chair LaPlante discussed definitions used by Granby, CT related to wineries and distilleries. Commissioner Hiney explained that all required businesses have been registered with the Aquifer Protection Agency and to his knowledge, no farms are within any aquifer protection areas in Enfield. Commissioners Cote and LaPlante explained that this is not true and that farms are only required to report to the State of Connecticut, causing a huge lack of oversight on these farms. Many farmers are unaware that they are located in an aquifer protection area. Excavation and regrading definitions were discussed. Chair LaPlante reviewed other definitions she had revised since the last meeting, including farm stands and right-to-farm laws. The right-to-farm law takes effect after 1 year of registration and Chair LaPlante asked what corrective action will the Town take should a farmer violate the one year waiting period. The commissioner and Mr. Hiney discussed best next steps.

B. List of Priority Parcels for Community Farmland Preservation

Mr. Hiney explained that Ms. Driver does not have the ability to make the map requested by commissioners. Chair LaPlante directed Mr. Hiney to make an appointment with someone from I/T in order to get this map created.

10. NEW BUSINESS

11. DATE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING

A. February 11, 2025

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 8:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Vose

Secretary

Rebecca Jones

Recording Secretary