



**MINUTES
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
March 11, 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 7:05pm.

2. ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Michael Dynia

Also present were Assistant Town Planner, Stephen Hiney and Recording Secretary, Rebecca Jones.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. February 11, 2025

MOTION by: William Cote **seconded:** Nancy Wyzga to approve the February 11, 2025 meeting minutes.

Chair LaPlante requested a revision under 'Farm Friendly Zoning Regulations'. She requested that the section read as follows: 'Chair LaPlante reviewed a draft letter of support from the commission for the text change request by Jarmoc Farms and the commissioners' consensus was for Chair LaPlante to submit the comments and read the letter into the record for the public hearing.' Commissioner Cote asked for clarification related to statement about reviewing new rating criteria on the Department of Agriculture's website.

MOTION by: William Cote **seconded:** Nancy Wyzga to approve the February 11, 2025 meeting minutes as amended.

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

4. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

6. CORRESPONDENCE/STAFF REPORT

Commissioner Wyzga approached Ann Dugas of Smyth's Trinity Farm to become a member. Chair LaPlante created a recruitment advertisement on Enfield Television. The commissioners all agreed upon the proposed advertisement. Chair LaPlante gave an update on several house bills, including House Bill 7175 and House Bill 6289, which will allow for the use of drones to apply fertilizer and pesticides on crops. Mr. Hiney read a letter into the record from Halfinger Farms inviting the commissioners to a book launch party. Some of Enfield's barns were photographed included in "Connecticut: Quaint, Historic Barns and Farms of the Nutmeg State". Mr. Hiney provided contact information to get details of the book launch.

7. APPROVAL OF INVOICES/OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS

Chair LaPlante asked for a budget for the commission. She would like all commissioners to have the opportunity to attend Farm Bureau meetings. Mr. Hiney will speak with Ms. Whitten.

8. REPORTS OF OFFICERS, COMMITTEES AND STAFF

Chair LaPlante attended the PZC meeting and read the letter into the record. It was approved with minor changes.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Farm Friendly Zoning Regulations

Chair LaPlante confirmed that the commissioners have all reviewed and made notes on the draft provided by Mr. Hiney at the last meeting. Mr. Hiney included farmworker housing in the newest draft. He recommended working on a few pages at each meeting. Chair LaPlante confirmed PZC is working on the draft. Chair LaPlante shared her feedback. She recommended adding an appendix for easier review. This may not be the best use of time and resources. Chair LaPlante suggested including links within the electronic copy. Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall noted an inconsistency in spelling out 'Connecticut General Statutes'. Mr. Hiney will revise this globally throughout the document. Chair LaPlante noted that the definitions of farm structures and agriculture structures are essentially the same definition and should be combined. Chair LaPlante noted that agricultural activity is not defined but is referenced on Page 3. She asked if a definition should be created. She also noted an inconsistency with roadside stands. Mr. Hiney explained it should be covered under the definition of agriculture, but he can try to clarify the language further. Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall asked for further clarification about roadside stands. Chair LaPlante asked for clarification related to buffers. Mr. Hiney explained that buffers are currently done by the zone and use, and they do not include farming or landscaping standards. Chair LaPlante believes that all the setback requirements have been changed and does not want to make it more than what is currently required of that zone. Mr. Hiney recommended a 20-foot buffer. Commissioner Cote recommended reviewing the buffers for

the Hartford Hospital building on Hazard Avenue. He further recommended changing the language under 'Section A' on Page 3 to read 'special permit required for agriculture activities include...'. Chair LaPlante reviewed industrial zones. She gave examples of short-term storage of products on other farmers' land. The storage mentioned in the regulations references long-term storage. Definitions for LO and SDD (Special Design District) were shared. Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall asked why a special permit is needed for agricultural activities occurring in industrial zones. They discussed adding farmers market language on Page 7. Chair LaPlante recommended reviewing the buffer requirements before finalizing the farm building section. She recommended creating a chart of what agricultural activity is allowed in each use.

B. List of Priority Parcels for Community Farmland Preservation

10. NEW BUSINESS

11. DATE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING

A. April 8, 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 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Vose

Secretary

Rebecca Jones

Recording Secretary