



**MINUTES  
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
May 13, 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 7:03pm.

**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 liason Christian D'Antonio and Recording Secretary, Rebecca Jones.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. April 8, 2025

**MOTION by:** William Cote **seconded:** Nancy Wyzga to approve the regular meeting minutes.

Chair LaPlante requested that 'Acting Chair' be changed to 'Vice Chair'.

**MOTION by:** William Paul Cote **seconded:** Nancy Wyzga to accept the April 8, 2025 meeting minutes as amended.

**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: Michael Dynia.

**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**

The \$10,000 request for the farm preservation program was never presented to the Town Council per Chair LaPlante. She shared other budget presentation updates. Chair LaPlante reiterated information related to an invitation for an author meet and greet at Halfinger Farm. Barns in Enfield were featured in the book.

*Commissioner Dynia arrived at 7:11pm.*

## **9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **A. Farm Friendly Zoning Regulations**

Chair LaPlante started by reviewing some of the discussion points from the Planning and Zoning workshop on farm-friendly zoning regulations. She suggested a workshop between both commissions in order to better explain why certain regulations are required. She also noted that the commission has not worked on the regulations during the last two meetings because Mr. Hiney has not been present. The commissioners began reviewing beehives and beekeeping. Chair LaPlante confirmed with Commissioner D'Antonio that the PZC did not discuss the difference between farm stands and farm stores. She explained the reason behind the Commission's proposed definitions. The commissioners discussed adding in 'locally grown'. Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall circled back to the beehive regulations. The commissioners discussed best practices for beekeeping, including the recommended lot size and hive size. They agreed a quarter acre or smaller is too small for beekeeping. Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall read best practices related to water sources for honey bees. They agreed to allow lots greater than 3 acres to keep as many bees as they would like in order to promote pollination. Lots smaller than a half acre would be limited to one beehive and lots over 1 acre would be limited to two beehives. Chair LaPlante stated she would work on that regulation after the meeting. Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall wants information in the regulations directing beekeepers to follow the best management practices. The commissioners went back to discussing farm stores and farm stands. Chair LaPlante mentioned prohibiting cannabis from being sold at either a farm stand or a farm store. The regulations are too highly regulated for this to become a reality, but it may be good to include them. The commissioners discussed the special permit requirement and how it would apply to various farming-related scenarios. The commissioners agreed that they need to speak with Mr. Hiney before going forward with any further changes.

### **B. List of Priority Parcels for Community Farmland Preservation**

Chair LaPlante stated half of the properties that were on the list have been sold. Commissioner Cote recommended that the commissioners score the parcels. Chair LaPlante explained that the State of Connecticut has updated their scoring rubrics and recommended that they review the statute. It will also be scored at the state level.

## **10. NEW BUSINESS**

## 11. DATE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING

A. June 10, 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