



MINUTES
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
June 10, 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 7:04pm

2. ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Kathleen Vose

Also present were Stephen Hiney, Assistant Town Planner; Rebecca Jones, Recording Secretary; and Cbristian D'Antonio, PZC liason.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. May 13, 2025

MOTION by: William Cote **seconded:** Gretchen Pfeifer-Hall to approve the May 13, 2025 meeting minutes.

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

4. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Megan Kelly, potential new member, introduced herself to the commission. Her focus is permaculture and food forests. She is interested in participating in this capacity to help add more green space to Enfield. She is waiting for appointment by the Town Manager and has already submitted the appropriate paperwork.

6. CORRESPONDENCE/STAFF REPORT

There was no update from staff. Chair LaPlante shared highlights from the recent farm bill. She shared information related to farm tax credits. Chair LaPlante shared an email from a resident who owns property on North Maple Street requesting guidance in getting his farm running, specifically grant information and commission endorsements. She confirmed with Town staff that he has received permission to do forestry work on the property. Mr. Hiney reviewed zoning specifics related to the property. He does not know if the property applies

for 490 status. Commissioner Cote suggested that the property owner contact the CT Farm Bureau. Ms. Kelly recommended contacting the Small Business Development Center and the New Connecticut Farmers Alliance as both have resources specifically for beginning farmers. Commissioner Pfeifer-Hall opined the lot is not ideal for farming as it is very wet. The commissioners discussed recent clear cutting activities that have been occurring around town. Mr. Hiney explained regulations surrounding clear cutting. Chair LaPlante questioned why certain projects are approved for agricultural use when the conditions are not viable for farming. Mr. Hiney explained that commissioners cannot make decisions based on suspicion. Chair LaPlante suggested seeking a legal opinion.

7. APPROVAL OF INVOICES/OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS

None.

8. REPORTS OF OFFICERS, COMMITTEES AND STAFF

None.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Farm Friendly Zoning Regulations

The commissioners began by reviewing a new section regarding breweries, distilleries and wineries. Mr. D'Antonio read excerpts from the state regulations related to the same. Mr. Hiney will review the state statute to see what additional regulations can be added to this section. The commissioners also reviewed farmer's markets regulations. They discussed whether special permits are required for a farmers' market. Special use permits for livestock ownership were reviewed. Chair LaPlante asked if commercial piggeries needed to be defined. Chicken farming and hatcheries were discussed. Mr. Hiney reminded the commissioners that if it is not explicitly in the regulations, it is not allowed.

B. List of Priority Parcels for Community Farmland Preservation

There is no list yet but Chair LaPlante does want to discuss the new criteria and set up a new scoring rubric in the future.

10. NEW BUSINESS

None.

11. DATE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING

A. July 8, 2025

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by: William Cote, seconded: Gretchen Pfeifer-Hall to adjourn.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared the motion adopted

unanimously, and the meeting stood adjourned at 8:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen Vose
Secretary

Rebecca Jones
Recording Secretary