

RECV'D: Office of the Town Clerk September 21, 2015

Durham Agricultural Commission
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, June 16, 2015
7:00 pm, 3rd floor Meeting Room, Town Hall

Members: Warren Herzig, Roger Passavant, Fred Mastele, Melissa Greenbacker

Alternates: Dick Porter, Joe Pasquale

Seating of Alternates: Dick Porter was seated for Member David Zemelsky

1) Meeting was called to order by Fred Mastele at 7:02 pm and roll call was taken.

2) Motion was made by Warren Herzig and seconded by Melissa Greenbacker to accept the June 16, 2015 Meeting Agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

3) Motion was made by Warren Herzig and seconded by Roger Passavant to accept the May 19, 2015 Meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

4) Public Comment

Melynda Naples was in attendance to speak on behalf of the on-going well and water storage tank issue. She brought the Commission up to speed with the testing and treating of the well water that has been occurring. She explained that both Bill Milardo, Durham Town Sanitarian, and the State Inspector had both tested the well recently. She said the State Inspector had reported that the coliform levels were on the rise once again. She explained that she had, again, treated the well with bleach as she had been instructed to do.

Another long discussion followed among the Commission members. After all aspects of the well and water storage tank were again discussed, Warren suggested a joint meeting with the Conservation Commission to see if we could come up with some sort of unified plan in regard to the well. Fred said he would contact Rick Huntley to propose and hopefully schedule a meeting with his Commission.

5) Old business

Town-owned properties / Guilford Road

Fred reported that he had e-mailed Laura Francis to formalize our offer of taking over the management of these two properties on Guilford Road. He had yet to receive a response from the First Selectman. Dick reported that Skip Wimler would be haying the properties as soon as weather permitted. He said he would keep the Commission posted on the mowing so we could plan our site walk.

Coginchaug river

Warren reported that CRCCD (CT Coastal Conservation District) had received funding for another year of water samples to be done on the Coginchaug River and its tributaries.

Plan of Conservation and Development

Joe had no news to report on the POCD.

Durham-Grown Sign

Fred reported that he had been unable to do anything on the sign. Dick and Roger spoke up and offered to take over the project. The Commission discussed purchasing signs with our annual budgetary money. Fred said he would inquire as to how much we have in our budget. The Commission discussed how many signs and their locations. It was agreed that we needed 7 signs and that Dick and Roger would 'scout out' appropriate locations. A motion was made by Dick Porter and seconded by Roger Passavant to spend our budget money on these signs. The motion passed unanimously.

6) New Business

Legislative Updates

Melissa reported on the Community Investment Act, which, she observed, could have been swept from the State budget entirely. She was pleased to report that the program had not taken as bad a 'hit' in the budget negotiations as had been

anticipated. She also reported the funding for the Farmland Preservation Program would stay intact for the first half of Fiscal Year 2016, and that the 50% cut in its budget would not occur until Fiscal Year 2017.

Melissa also reported that there would be a dairy farmers meeting, with Rosa DeLauro in attendance, on Friday, June 19, 2015, at Greenbacker Farm at 1:00 pm. She noted also that June is National Dairy Month.

Fred reported on an e-mail he had received from the Working Lands Alliance. The e-mail was in regards to the 2015 legislative session wrap up. Quite a bit of the e-mail related to the Community Investment Act.

Motion to Adjourn

Motion to adjourn was made by Dick Porter and seconded by Melissa Greenbacker. The Meeting was adjourned at 8:24 pm.