

Received: April 21, 2016  
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Office of the Town Clerk

**Durham Agricultural Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, March 15th, 2016**  
**7:00 pm, 3rd floor Meeting Room, Town Hall**

Members: Fred Mastele, Warren Herzig, Melissa Dziurgot, David Zemelsky, Roger Passavant

Alternates: Joe Pasquale, Dick Porter

Full Commission: No seating of alternates.

1. Meeting was called to order by Fred Mastele at 7:04 pm and roll call was taken.
2. Motion was made by Warren Herzig and seconded by Roger Passavant to accept the March 15th, 2016 Meeting Agenda. Motion passed unanimously.
3. Motion was made by Warren Herzig and seconded by Melissa Dziurgot to accept the Minutes of the February 16th, 2016 meeting. Motion passed unanimously.
4. Public Comment. There was no public comment.
5. Old Business.

Plan of Conservation and Development

Fred began the discussion with a brief overview for Commission Members who might have missed a meeting or the emails and phone calls that he had exchanged with the P&Z Commission. He recalled the tone of displeasure voiced by members at the March 8th 2016 “Special” Ag Commission meeting. He also mentioned that Roger had attended the March 9th, 2016 P&Z meeting to express that displeasure in person. Finally, Fred reviewed the phone conversation and email exchange he had with Frank DeFelice, Chairman of the P&Z Commission.

A long conversation among the Ag Commission members ensued. All of the Commission members still seemed quite displeased that our final draft of the POCD Ag Chapter had been kicked aside. However, it was conceded that we really did not have much to say in the matter and, if nothing else, we should be happy that almost all of our content was somehow included in the final version. Perhaps when the P&Z version of

the POCD Ag Chapter goes to the Board of Selectmen for final review, they too will find it too wordy and repetitive.

### Guilford Road Properties

Roger had supplied all of the Commission members with a draft of the Proposed Management/Maintenance Plan for the Guilford Road Properties. Warren and Joe suggested some wording changes/additions to the Plan. Some of these were: *'The use of best agricultural management practices,' 'Annual site walks and assessments,' 'Recommendation of soil testing and use of fertilizers.'*

Roger agreed to re-work the draft and try to have it ready for the next Ag Commission meeting.

David raised concerns once again regarding not using the suggested NRCA plan of using a riparian buffer along the banks of the Coginchaug River.

Dick raised concerns once again regarding the deplorable condition of the Durham Meadows Property and the condition of the Coginchaug River in that location.

### Durham Grown Signs

Fred reported that he had submitted a request for the sign budget to the Board of Finance. Warren inquired whether he had been invited to a BOF meeting for the request.

## 6. New Business

### Legislative Updates / Melissa's Report

- . Budgetary cuts to all State Agencies: UConn, Dept . of Agriculture, Extension Center.
- . Ag Day at the Capitol - Wednesday, March 16th, 2016. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- . Poultry Management Seminar - Saturday, March 19th, 2016.  
Covering: health, nutrition, diseases.
- . Food safety / modernization seminar - Thursday, March 29th, 2016 at UConn Agricultural Extension Center.

- . Melissa reported on her trip to New York City as a representative for a Cabot Cheese promotion. She explained that the Greenbacker Farm is one of the family owned farms that is part owner in Cabot Cheese.

#### Regional Agricultural Commission

Warren reported on a website that the RAC has called “Know Your Farmers.”

(Old Business revisited)

Later in the meeting, the topic of Durham Grown signs came up again. Fred proposed supplying the vendors at the Durham Farmers’ Market with Durham Grown signs. This led to expanding the offer of signs to the farms currently on the Durham Grown website. All in attendance felt this was a very good idea and a great way to broaden awareness of the Durham Ag Commission.

#### 8. Motion to Adjourn

Motion to adjourn was made by Roger Passavant and seconded by Warren Herzig. The meeting adjourned at 8:16 pm.