

Received: May 25, 2016
8:55 am
Office of the Town Clerk

Durham Agricultural Commission
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 19th, 2016
7:00 pm, 3rd floor Meeting Room, Town Hall

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

Alternates: Joe Pasquale, Phyllis Naples

Full Commission: No seating of alternates

1. Meeting was called to order by Fred Mastele at 7:05 pm and roll call was taken.
2. Motion was made by Roger Passavant and seconded by Phyllis Naples to accept the April 19th, 2016 Meeting Agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

(There were two sets of Minutes to be approved, as noted below.)

3. Motion was made by Roger Passavant and seconded by Warren Herzig to accept the Minutes of the March 8th, 2016 "Special" Meeting of the Ag Commission. Motion passed unanimously.
4. Motion was made by Melissa Dziurgot and seconded by Warren Herzig to accept the Minutes of the March 15th, 2016 Meeting. Motion passed unanimously.
5. Public Comment. There was no public comment.

6. Old Business

Plan of Conservation and Development

Fred reported that he had heard nothing new in regards to the progress of the POCD or of the Agricultural Chapter. Joe gave a brief overview of the time line that the Planning and Zoning Commission is supposed to be following. Joe reported that the first Public Hearing on the POCD was scheduled for June 1st, 2016. Concerns were raised that the June 30th, 2016 deadline for the submission of the POCD to the State of Connecticut would not be met and that this could affect discretionary spending.

The Ag Commission once again had a lengthy conversation regarding whether we wanted to accept the P&Z changes to the Ag Chapter, or if perhaps we want to continue to argue our point to both the P&Z and the Board of Selectmen. It was suggested that we should consider sending a copy of our Chapter to the River COG (Council of

Governments) to get their thoughts on whether our Chapter meets the format requirements. We might also ask them to compare the two versions of the Ag Chapter - our submission and the P&Z's re-write.

Guilford Road Properties

Roger had provided all the Commission members with a revised draft for the Maintenance/Management Plan for these properties. Fred asked Commission members for any additional changes. David once again raised his concerns about not using the proposed NRCS Plan that had been drafted on June 15th, 2015. Both Warren and Joe argued against the NRCS Plan and the use of a riparian buffer. Joe also raised the important point that it will not be the NRCS maintaining this property, but us. Roger referred to it as: "it will be our boots on the ground." The topic of the condition of the Durham Meadows property, and the involvement of the NRCS on that property, was once again brought up.

Durham Grown Signs

Fred reported that he had not heard from the Board of Finance regarding his request for additional funding for Durham Grown signs. He reminded us that the original budget was \$150.00 and that he had requested an additional \$700.00 for the signs. Roger asked if it would be okay to approach Mary Jane Malavasi to ask her about the status of our request.

7. New Business

Legislative Updates

Melissa had very little to report, other than hearing overwhelming chatter regarding impending budget cuts.

She also reported on a free seminar being offered on "Renewable Energy" on April 25th, 2016.

Miscellaneous

Roger asked Warren how the Solar "Open House" went at his property the previous weekend. Warren gave a brief description of the event.

8. Motion to Adjourn

Motion was made by Phyllis Naples and seconded by Melissa Dziurgot. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

