

Town of East Windsor Agricultural Commission

minutes

February 22, 2024,

Location: Town Hall, Rye St.

I. CALL TO ORDER – 6:38 PM

II. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

Attended by: Albert Grant, Donna Grant, Jim Stremper, Glenn Reichle, Valerie Galinski
Public: Rich Tuller, Anna Wasik

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of January 25, 2023. Glenn Reichle made a motion to accept the minutes.
2nd by Albert Grant. Minutes were approved.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

- School Outreach

Jim Stremper talked to a teacher from Rockville Vo-Ag regarding how student volunteers can work on a farm for 50 hours a year and earn school credit.

Valerie Galinski reported that she would write a draft letter to send to Town farm businesses to assess interest in participating. She will send it to Commission members to review. The program would serve East Windsor students attending Rockville Vo-Ag and Suffield Vo-Ag.

Glenn Reichle said we could check with his daughter who is an East Windsor school system employee about connecting to East Windsor High School students.

Danielle Boudreau will create a spreadsheet of farms to track which ones respond. They will be asked to respond by April 1, 2024.

The list of Agricultural businesses that are interested would be provided to interested students to contact directly.

- Connecticut Farmland Trust is having an event at the Ellington Town Hall Annex on Tuesday Feb. 27. The name of the presentation is “Planning for the Future of Your Farm.” Publicity has gone out on the Ag. Commission’s Facebook page as well as the East Windsor Facebook page. First Selectman Jason Bowsza included it in his weekly call to residents. Danielle Boudreau made copies of the poster

and included it in Commissioners packets to hand out. Several Commissioners are planning to attend.

- POCD Update

Danielle Boudreau reported that there will be a survey for residents and workshops will be held. Agriculture and Open Space will be topics.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- Community Garden

Water Tank

Continuing discussion regarding the water tank that needs to be removed. Jim Stremper reported that the lettering on the tank will need to be removed before it can be sold.

Garden Shed

BOS minutes ok-ed having a shed. We will need a drawing, a building permit, and a zoning permit. Jim will draw a sketch. Anna Wasik shared a map and there was discussion about locating the shed. It needs to be placed to avoid truck traffic passing through the Garden Road.

Continuing discussion on rotating the plots to reduce pest pressure. There is room to expand at the upper end.

- Enhanced Plowing Event

Jim Stremper is contacting horse plowers about this year's Plowing Event to be held on April 27. The Garden will need to be plowed in time to open the Garden by May 1. Discussion on where to park cars of those attending if Garden plots are relocated for rotation.

It was suggested we could use the planned Garden Shed to display brochures and info for farmers and possibly seeds to hand out. Other possible ideas were shared, such as having coffee.

We will need a new flyer for the plowing event.

- Review new flyer for plot rental promotion

Danielle Boudreau made new flyers for promoting the Community Garden with info about plot size and price. Same as last year. 24' x 16'. Plot rental \$25.00. The flyer was included in Commissioner's packets. It is bright and eye catching.

- VII. MISCELLANEOUS
- VIII. REPORTS OF Staff
- IX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
- X. EXECUTIVE SESSION
- XI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Jim Stremper and 2nd Glenn Reichle. Meeting adjourned at 7:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Donna Grant, recording secretary