

Town of East Windsor Agricultural Commission

minutes

January 25, 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, Keith Yagaloff, selectman, Alan Baker, selectman

Absent: Valerie Galinski

Public: Rich Tuller, Anna Wasik

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of October 26, 2023. Glenn Reichle made a motion to accept the minutes. 2nd by Albert Grant. Minutes were approved.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

- Water tank sale

Discussion regarding the water tank at the Community Garden for use by the gardeners and no longer needed. The tank was purchased in June 2013. The fire department agreed to fill it as necessary. Albert Grant researched the date of purchase which was June 2013 and the amount that the commission paid but has not yet found that. It was agreed that it is not necessary, as we just need to decide on what it is worth now and what we can realistically ask for it. As far as we know it is in good shape. Jim Stremper made a motion that we list it on Facebook Marketplace for 2 weeks with the asking price of \$500.00. Glenn Reichle 2nd. Motion passed. Albert Grant will attempt to accomplish that.

- Ag. Leases and maintenance/ improvements to leased property (Town owned)

The Commission is suggesting the rent to be put towards maintaining farm fields and reclaiming farmland. Albert Grant will ask Treasurer Amy O'Toole if the financials for that could be set up; and keep the money separate from the general fund.

Discussion initiated by Jim Stremper regarding the potential of having Ag. Students work or intern on farms in Town. Discussion on how to proceed to investigate that idea; contact schools, possible presentation.

- Review list Ag. Businesses in Town

The list was read by Donna Grant. Allard Family Farm, Melrose Place Farm and Revay's Garden Center were removed from the list. River Valley Growworks 125 Depot St. hemp grower and hemp extracts was added.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- Community Garden Update

Discussion regarding a Garden Storage shed. All agreed the offer from the Town to use their pump house was not feasible. Alan Baker thinks that the stumbling block of liability could be revisited by the Selectmen. It was noted we would need a building permit. We need a sketch. Jim will draw. Anna Wasik has a map drawing. Where to locate it? Suggested it be located where water tank is now possibly.

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

- Jim Stremper will contact horse plowers about this years Plowing Event. The Garden will need to be plowed in time to open the Garden by May 1.

VII. MISCELLANEOUS

Farmer's coffee event

Discussion on whether to have a Farmer's Coffee Event this year. Glenn Reichle suggested we try something new this year to interest young people in the idea of farming. It was suggested to include something along those lines at the Garden Plowing Event. Maybe a display of plows for kids to sit on. Glenn will have extra Blue Hubbard Squash seeds that could be offered to those that come

VIII. REPORTS OF Staff

IX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Donna Grant, recording secretary