

Minutes from the Jan. 10, 2019 Special Joint Meeting of the Agricultural and Conservation Commissions

Commissioners Albert Grant, Jim Stremper and Glen Reichle attended forming a quorum. Bob Maynard, Donna Grant and Bob Like were also present. The meeting was called to order at 6:40.

Town Planner Rubin Flores-Marzan presented information about the prospect of hemp becoming a legal crop in Connecticut and the opportunities in EW for growing and processing it, the natural resources and zoning already being in place.

Questions were raised about growing and harvesting methods, the operations required to process the crop, and associated fees and regulations. The readiness of a market for the crop was also a question.

It was suggested to investigate Kentucky's hemp program.

Attracting a pilot program and a processing facility in EW was suggested.

Rubin noted that the POCD only had one page pertaining to Agriculture.

The completion of the purchase of an agricultural easement on the Riverbend Property on Rye St. was acknowledged.

The CT Valley Ag. Summit agenda was outlined . The Commission will promote it and it will replace the Farmer's Coffee event this year.

The Draft II of the Proposed Ordinance for Tax Exemption for Farm Buildings, which was previously approved by the Commission with a suggested increase from \$100,000 to \$150,000 value, was passed to Bob Maynard to discuss with the Assessor and Board of Selectmen.

The Community Garden was briefly discussed with no conclusions reached.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00

Submitted by Albert Grant Chairman

