

TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR

Minutes of the Agricultural Commission meeting of April 2

Albert Grant, Jim Stremper and Glenn Reichle were present. Donna Grant, Fran Neill, and 2 others were also present.

The meeting started at 7:30

The minutes from March 5 were approved.

Old Business:

The Ag. Summit at Asnuntuck Mar 2 2019 went well with about 50 attendees.

The Community Garden plowing demonstration was set for April 20 with a rain date of the 27th. Rototilling, burying the waterline and having Collins Compost delivered need to be done.

Tax abatement for ag. buildings passed at the Town meeting

Funding for ag. easements needs to be replenished.

New Business:

The Town does not have a written policy for establishing leases for rental of Town owned farm land.

The Commission feels that there should be a fair and transparent process for granting farm land leases such as a sealed bidding process. Glenn has gotten a copy South Windsor's bidding literature. We will review and discuss at the next meeting. We feel that 5 years is good lease term because of the time needed to capitalize on soil preparation and maintenance. Good stewardship benefits the quality of the Towns land assets.

A program presented by the CT Dept of Ag.at the Ag. Summit attended by Albert made known that municipalities are eligible for up 90% matching funds for farm field restoration. Albert will arrange to meet Kip Kolisinskus from the Dept. of Ag. at the EW Kogut Farm to look at a 15 acre tobacco field that is overgrown and has deteriorating tent poles and wires on it. We feel that it is a hazard to the public if let go and would be a rentable and productive farm field if reclaimed.

The meeting adjourned at 9:11

Submitted by Albert Grant, Chairman