

Town of East Windsor Agricultural Commission

Minutes

Thursday, January 6, 2022
Location: Zoom meeting only

Agenda

I. CALL TO ORDER – 6:40 PM

II. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

1. Attended by: Albert Grant, Donna Grant, Ruth Calabrese. Glenn Reichle
Public: Andre Grosz
Absent: Wesley Bell, Jim Stremper

III. ADDED AGENDA ITEMS

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Approval of minutes tabled.

V. NEW BUSINESS

Andre Grosz attended to talk about Kogut property restoration and barn restoration.

Albert Grant reported that he had spoken to Lanced Shannon from the Farm Restoration Program. Grant applications are taken in March and are posted 1 month in advance. There is a 1 week only window for the submission of applications. Municipality or farmer only 1 property per year allowed. If tenant is municipality there is a 90% match. If an individual, a 50% match. There is a cap of \$20,000. Last year Albert spoke with Lance Shannon who had suggested could split the work into 2 years in order to get \$20,000 per year. The Kogut property was vetted informally last year or year before in the spring.

Information from Glenn Reichle on how the grant process went for him.

Glenn Reichle, renting Town owned farmland on Melrose Rd. is ok to go now with matching funds. Randi Reichle explained how the process went. The paperwork was signed in Dec 2020; submitted in January 2021. The grant was awarded in Nov. 2021. Work cannot be started until;

1. someone from Farmland Restoration Program comes out to test the property
2. a plan is created
3. then can start clearing
4. FRP may come out again
5. 6 mo. after, will receive money all in one payment

There was lots of back-and-forth communication. Things needed to be done on the town's side, with Jason Bowsza, First Selectman and Len Norton, Town Engineer. An entry point was designated, flagged and pinned. Work must be completed within one year after they come out and give the OK.

Dave Hass had previously given a quote for clearing Kogut Farm.

Andre Grosz spoke about his farming experience and his barns maintenance. He is interested in restoring the Kogut barn in order to use/ rent it. He perhaps won't go for the grant as it is easier not to have to deal with the State, just the Town. In his opinion the barn is salvageable right now. Albert Grant said the barn could become a liability for the town if left to deteriorate. Andre Grosz is also interested in clearing the Kogut land. He also saws and makes his own lumber. A specific agreement with the town would have to be worked out.

Glenn Reichle or Albert Grant offered to walk the property with Andre Grosz. Contact info. For Andre Grosz 860 930-3684.

Albert Grant made motion; The Conservation Commission supports Andre Grosz in pursuing the restoration of the Kogut barn and property. 2nd by Glenn Reichle. Motion passed.

The next step is Ruthanne Calabrese will advise Jason Bowsza.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

1. Community Garden.

Cleaned out. We would like to consider rearranging the plot next year with less aisles.

We would like to host Nigel Palmer who is a gardening speaker and educator to hold a program for Community Gardeners and perhaps other public too.

Audubon Society offers a grant to create bird and wildlife areas. Window is short this year.

VII. MISCELLANEOUS

1.

VIII. REPORTS OF STAFF

IX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

X. ADJOURMENT

1. Motion to adjourn. Albert Grant, 2nd Glenn Reichle. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Donna Grant, Recording Secretary