

Town of East Windsor Agricultural Commission

February 23, 2023, 2023
Location: Town Hall, Rye St.

I. CALL TO ORDER – 6:35 PM

II. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

Attended by: Albert Grant, Donna Grant, Glenn Reichle, Valerie Galinski, Danielle Boudreau

Absent: Jim Stremper, Wes Bell

Public: Anna Wasik

III. ADDED AGENDA ITEMS

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes for Jan. 26, 2023. Glenn Reichle made a motion to accept the minutes. Motion was 2nd by Valerie Galinski. Minutes were approved.

V. NEW BUSINESS

1. Community Garden

East Windsor Town Resident Anna Wasik attended the meeting to offer her volunteer services to help with the succession and the future of the running of the Community Garden. Albert Grant reviewed the history of the Community Garden and tasks that the current members do. Documents from previous years were shared for an initial introduction in what is required to run the Garden; Garden map, Garden Rules, spreadsheet of gardener plots assigned and contact info, example of press release to the newspapers, posters for printing and posting around Town and posting on East Windsor Facebook sites to promote Garden registration and events like the horse drawn plowing event.

Another resident is also interested in helping but was not able to attend the meeting.

The Commission thanked Anna Wasik for volunteering to help keep the Garden going and future meetings will be necessary to make the transitions.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

1. Farmer's Coffee

The event will be held on April 1, 2023 from 9:00 -11:00. The location has been secured at the Melrose Schoolhouse. The event will be publicized. Discussion about acquiring literature from the CT Farm bureau and the CT Farmland Trust, and NRCS to hand out, and the possibility of sending the announcement to owners of property who have Public Act 490 on their property. Postage for that to be determined. We need a poster announcement and publicity to submit to the newspapers.

2. Farm promotion

As mentioned at last month's meeting we are still planning to promote local farm businesses.

As spring approaches, we want to call attention to local agricultural retail businesses and encourage shopping local. We can use the list of farms we created.

VII. MISCELLANEOUS

1. General Discussion

We had a wide-ranging discussion about the future of farming in East Windsor and how there is a difficult environment now for farmers. Glenn Reichle reported that the majority of food in this country is imported. Migrants and Immigrants are the majority of the employees who will work in agriculture.

VIII. REPORTS OF STAFF

IX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Possible Ag. Easement Candidates

Not discussed.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7:45.

Respectfully submitted by Donna Grant, recording secretary