

MINUTES
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION
REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING
September 14, 2022

OPENING: 7:00 p.m. Chairman Hansen opened the hybrid meeting by announcing the members in attendance.

ATTENDANCE

Burt Hansen, Chairman	Present
Dan Cook, Commissioner	Present
Zach Barnett, Alternate	Present
Ron Cecchini, Commissioner	Present
Brett Colson, Vice Chairman/Alternate	Absent
Lenita Bober, Commissioner	Absent
Tammy Ciak-Bissaillon, Commissioner	Absent
Maryssa Cook-Obregon, Commissioner	Present
Sage Fury, Alternate	Present

MINUTES

Zach Barnett made a **motion** to approve the minutes of August 10th, 2022 with corrections. Burt Hansen, Chairman, **seconded** the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Burt Hansen- Yes
Zach Barnett- Yes
Maryssa Cook-Obregon- Yes
Dan Cook- Yes
Ron Cecchini-Abstained

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment

NEW BUSINESS

Sofinowski Preserve- The Commission did a site visit and determined that they will be doing a Work Day. The work day is set for Sunday, October 16th at 10 AM. This is open to the public and a volunteer event. The Commission talked about creating a maintenance fund for such properties. The Commission mentioned having “Right to Farm“ T-shirts made as a fundraiser

that would be sold at Blossoming Acres and other willing establishments in town. These monies would be used to maintain the Sofinowski Preserve and also help in the purchase of Sofinowski/Community Garden Signs.

OLD BUSINESS

Sofinowski Preserve Garden Signs- Sage Fury and Maryssa Cook-Obregon are going to come up with a design for the Sofinowski / Southwick Community Garden Signs. These signs will be placed at the entrance.

Master Plan- The deadline for the master plan survey was Aug 31, 2022 the total number of participants was 850 total. More information will be available after the Master Plan meeting takes place.

Open Space- Information such as the Southwick Agricultural Commissions real estate information & flyer will be provided to the Town web page. There are currently 37 Houses for sale in Town with 17 different real estate agents. It is encouraged that the relators use this information when selling any properties in the Town of Southwick.

Open Farm Day- As of now that date has been set for the last Saturday in August 2023. The Agricultural Commission will work on getting Farm Businesses to sponsor our Open Farm Day. The Agricultural Commission wants the Farm Businesses to know that they have all our support in anyway they may need when giving the Town/Agricultural Commission their hand in making the Open Farm Day a success.

Community Garden Update- The Community Garden is in need of new posts and currently some other upkeep. This work could potentially be done on the same work day as Sofinowski Preserve work day. The Community Garden will be tilled in the early spring 2023.

Youth members of commission / Ag education- The commission would like to get a possible Youth Group in the works at the High School for students who are interested in a agricultural and landscaping future. The Commission is interested in doing a presentation at the High School in the near future.

FYI

Granby CT Open Farm Day is 9/17/2022

Farm Brochures are going out this week to in Town Establishments

The next meeting will be October 12 at 7pm.

Chairman Hansen made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting and Zach Barnett **seconded** the motion.
The vote of the Committee was unanimous in favor.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Burt Hansen- Yes

Zach Barnett- Yes

Maryssa Cook-Obregon- Yes

Dan Cook- Yes

Ron Cecchini-Abstained

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Barton

cc:

Select Board

Town Clerk

Burt Hansen, Chairman

Brett Colson, Vice Chairman

Dan Cook, Commissioner

Ron Cecchini, Commissioner

Zach Barnett, Commissioner

Tammy Ciak-Bissaillon, Commissioner

Lenita Bober, Commissioner

Maryssa Cook-Obregon, Commissioner

Sage Fury, Alternate

Date