

MINUTES
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION
REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING
October 12, 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	Absent
Zach Barnett, Alternate	Absent
Ron Cecchini, Commissioner	Absent
Brett Colson, Vice Chairman/Alternate	Absent
Lenita Bober, Commissioner	Absent
Tammy Ciak-Bissaillon, Commissioner	Present (Zoom)
Maryssa Cook-Obregon, Commissioner	Present
Sage Fury, Alternate	Present

MINUTES

Chairman Hansen made a motion to approve the minutes of September 14, 2022 with corrections. Commissioner Fury seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows:

Burt Hansen	yes	Maryssa Cook-Obregon	yes
Tammy Ciak-Bissaillon	yes	Sage Fury	yes

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no Public Comments

NEW BUSINESS

Meeting Format Chairman Hansen suggested that guest speakers be invited to participate at future meetings. The Commission will establish topic of interest relative to agricultural issues.

Granby CT Open Farm Day Commission members Cook-Obregon and Barnett attended the event. Farms such as the Coward tobacco farm presented their wares and explained how the process of growing and processing their product worked. Mr. Coward is the second generation of

tobacco growers. The Wilhelm Farm, participating in their second year, had a self-guided tour with posted stations including animals. The event presented a variety of ideas for a potential open farm day in Southwick. Commissioner Cook-Obregon further suggested that the members of the Commission volunteer to help the farms as the event will likely happen during a busy season. The last Saturday in August was suggested and farmers will be contacted for date and what time would best be suited for their participation. Commissioner Fury will create a data base with information of the Southwick farmers.

Farm Parade The event is to be held on October 22nd starting near Southwick Florist and ending at Town Hall. Mr. Deedy questioned if the Agricultural Commission needed to submit a permit for their participation. It was not required in the past, thus the Commission did not believe one was necessary. Commissioner Bober and Kevin Solek of Solek Farm will be contacted to determine if they could provide a tractor and trailer for the possibility of a hay ride for the Commission participation.

OLD BUSINESS

Community Garden Update Commissioner Cook-Obregon presented a potential sign design for the entrance and exit to identify the property. It was suggested that a white reflective sign with green lettering be created. The fence will soon need repair. There is material that was purchased the can be used. Tilling will take place in the next few weeks. Commissioner Ciak- Bissaillon suggested a fund raiser for helping with the financial needs of the garden. Chairman Hansen will also contact the National Honor Society to determine if there are students interested in participating.

Sofinowski Land Preserve The cleanup day in conjunction with the Conservation Commission is scheduled for October 16 at 10:00. Focus points will be established for specific areas to improve the vista specifically near the ponds, and remove as many invasive plants as possible. Brush could remain on the site and covered with a tarp so they can naturally decompose, but the invasive plants should be removed to another area on-site and burned so their seeds cannot promulgate regrowth.

Ag Com Magazine Commissioner Fury is working on the website.

Right to Farm Brochure Chairman Hansen distributed the brochure to the Planning Board, real estate agents, and possibly attorneys that handle estate transactions. Chairman Hansen could also mention the brochure at a future Select Board meeting during the Public Comments section.

Youth Members Chairman Hansen stated that there was no update on this issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Nilsson

cc:

Select Board
Town Clerk

Burt Hansen, Chairman

Brett Colson, Alternate

Dan Cook, Commissioner

Ron Cecchini, Commissioner

Zach Barnett, Alternate

Tammy Ciak-Bissaillon, Commissioner

Lenita Bober, Commissioner

Maryssa Cook-Obregon, Commissioner

Sage Fury, Alternate

Date