

Franklin Agriculture and Conservation Commission

FRANKLIN TOWN HALL
7 Meetinghouse Hill Rd.
Franklin, Connecticut

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, December 20, 2018

7:30 p.m.

-
1. Call to Order: Chairperson Susan Allen called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

Members Present: Chairperson Susan Allen, Vice Chair Alan Holmberg, Gail Miller. **Members Absent:** Craig Staebner. **Alternate Member Present:** Roland Mihok. **Alternate Members Absent** Chester Rynaski. Mr. Mihok was seated as a voting member

2. Recognition of Visitors and Initial Inquiries: None.

3. Approval of Minutes

- a. May 17, 2018:

MOTION #1 (12.20.18): made by Alan Holmberg **SECONDED BY** Gail Miller that the Agriculture & Conservation Commission approves the Minutes of May 17, 2018 as amended:

1. Old Business. b): Remove language associated to Charlie Grant updating towns on agricultural activities
2. New Business. d): Remove last three sentences
3. New business. e): Clarification regarding Toxic Action Meeting: Franklin residents worked with it in the past. This topic matter is not local in our area.
4. Spelling Correction in document: Susan Allen

VOICE VOTE: UNANIMOUS;

MOTION CARRIES

4. Call for Additional Agenda Items:

MOTION #2 (12.20.18): made by Roland Mihok **SECONDED BY** Alan Holmberg that the Agriculture & Conservation Commission add Approval of 2019-2020 Budget to New Business

VOICE VOTE: UNANIMOUS;

MOTION CARRIES

5. Correspondence: None

6. Old Business:

- a. **ANAEROBIC DIGESTER CUSHMAN'S FARM QUANTUM BIOPOWER:** This project remains in the planning stages at this time. However, it is hopeful funding will become available from the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).
 - b. **AGVOCATE WEBSITE:** The AGVOCATE offers information on Connecticut Agricultural Commissions, Partners and Resources, and Creating Farm Friendly Communities. Franklin AG-CON is listed and there is a link to our Town website and AG-CON informational page.
 - c. **CT PUBLIC LANDS PROTECTION: RESULTS QUESTION #2 11/6/18 BALLOT:** This resolution protecting State owned public lands and requiring a legal requirement that a public hearing be held for an activity associated to a developer or persons wishing to change the status of state owned public property has passed congress and will become law.
 - d. **FRANKLIN HILLS GOLF COURSE UPDATE:** AG-CON oversees conservation easements on the Franklin Hills Golf Course property. It was noted, the project was officially withdrawn May 2018.

7. New Business

a. **2019 MEETING CALENDAR:**

MOTION #3 (12.20.18): made by Roland Mihok **SECONDED BY** Gail Miller that the Agriculture & Conservation Commission approve the 2019 Meeting Schedule as presented

VOICE VOTE: UNANIMOUS; MOTION CARRIES

- b. **FARM BUREAU:** The legislative dinner is scheduled for January 25, 2019. The Agenda includes, but is not limited to, topics of importance, topics of concerns, selling requirements for products, taxable or tax exempt information about equipment, labor, and materials used for building structures such as barns.
- c. **LAND CONSERVATION EFFORTS:** Updates were discussed regarding the Bombero, Peltier, Morehouse, and McCallum properties.
- d. **EASTERN CT CONSERVATION DISTRICT:** Gail Miller discussed recent activities associated to a stream walk event. Overall, discussion took place on the topic of water testing efforts. Those involved took water samples, did visual computations, performed algae observations, determined healthy versus non-healthy water, and searched for potential sources for any problems.
- e. **NW CORNER MARKER:** There was review of the fact that the NW Corner Marker marks the proper area of a nine-mile square, in that Franklin property is part of the NW marker itself, that the Uncas Indians gave to the colonial people. There is somewhat of a concern that sand and gravel operations are occurring in Windham very close to this property.
- f. **APPROVAL 2019-2020 BUDGET:**

MOTION #4 (12.20.18): made by Alan Holmberg **SECONDED BY** Roland Mihok that the Agriculture & Conservation Commission approve the 2019-2020 Budget as follows:

<u>Line Item</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
1450.10	Advertising/Misc	150.00
VOICE VOTE: UNANIMOUS;		MOTION CARRIES

MOTION #5 (12.20.18): made by Roland Mihok **SECONDED BY** Gail Miller that the Agriculture & Conservation Commission approve the 2019-2020 Budget as follows:

<u>Line Item</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
1450.20	Opens Space Fund	250.00
VOICE VOTE: UNANIMOUS;		MOTION CARRIES

9. **GENERAL COMMENTS:** None10. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** None11. **ADJOURNMENT:**

MOTION #6 (12.20.18): made by Gail Miller **SECONDED BY** Alan Holmberg that the Agriculture & Conservation Commission adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

VOICE VOTE: UNANIMOUS; MOTION CARRIES

Respectfully submitted, *Sherry Pollard*