



**TOWN OF FRANKLIN  
AGRICULTURE AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION [AgCon]**

**FRANKLIN TOWN HALL  
7 Meetinghouse Hill Rd.  
Franklin, CT 06254**

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**Thursday, October 17, 2019**  
**7:30 p.m.**

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1. Call to Order: Chairperson Susan Allen called the meeting to order at 7:35pm.

**Members Present:** Chairperson Susan Allen, Vice Chair Alan Holmberg, Gail Miller, Craig Staebner.  
**Alternate Member Present:** Roland Mihok. **Alternate Members Absent:** Chester Rynaski.

Roland Mihok was seated as a voting member.

2. Recognition of Visitors and Initial Inquiries: N/A

3. Approval of Minutes

- a. June 20, 2019:

**MOTION #1 (10.17.19):** made by Alan Holmberg SECONDED BY Gail Miller that the Agriculture & Conservation Commission approve the Minutes of June 20, 2019 as presented

**VOICE VOTE: UNANIMOUS;**

**MOTION CARRIES**

4. Call for Additional Agenda Item: N/A

5. Correspondence:

- a. Last Green Valley: Ag-Con reviewed itemized expenditures, contributions, and discussed the need for volunteer time to assist with State Funding.

6. Old Business

- a. **FRANKLIN HILLS GOLF COURSE:** The Franklin Hills Golf Club project is under new management. The original management team, at the time land use approvals were obtained, has been removed from all aspects of management activities.
  - b. **POLICY CONSERVATION EASEMENT INSPECTION:** Information is continually being reviewed regarding conservation easement designations and possibilities in the Town of Franklin. The Town owns properties that have been designated as open space, such as, and area off of Hyde Park. There is a strip of land approximately five acres that can be accessed at the end of Hyde Park road. The State of Connecticut has asked that housing developments set aside property for open space or pay a fee in lieu.

7. New Business:

- a. **NOVEMBER ELECTION OF OFFICERS:** Elections of Officers will take place next meeting.

- b. **FARM BUREAU:** Farm Bureau is holding their annual county meeting Sat Oct 19, 2019 at the Lebanon Congregational Church.
- c. **LAND CONSERVATION EFFORTS:** The Peltier grant submission process is coming close to an end. Currently, there is a 30 day comment period in place. It is anticipated the decision on the award of the grant will be known sometime mid November 2019. The grant would in effect make up the difference within the purchase price and reimburse the Town of Sprague for appraisal, surveying, and environmental studies costs.
- d. **PRESERVE: NEW TAIL BLAZES:**  
Commission members viewed a map depicting the Watson property, open fields, and roadway configurations. More specifically, they reviewed the point on Holton Rd. where there is an informational kiosk about trails and a place for vehicular parking.
- e. **ECCD: WATER MONITORING & BIOASSESSMENT:** Monitoring was performed up and down the Willimantic River and a few additional sites over a ten week period. Water samples were gathered and pictures were taken. Samples were sent to a lab and checked for e-coli and overall purity and cleanliness.
- f. **PUTNAM ASH LANDFILL:** It has been discussed that many existing landfills in CT are at capacity. Therefore, there is discussion on utilizing Putnam for additional landfill activities. Putnam tops list of 6 sites identified as landfills in state.
- g. **RECYCLABLE LIST:** Commission members reviewed a recyclable list. It has been noted that recycling protocols can be somewhat confusing and this list will help people better understand.
- h. **ARBOR LAW LOCAL RECOGNITION:** Arbor Society is planning its 100- year celebration. CT is known to be a leader in forestry, history, and management of trees. Incidentally, CT requires arborists be licensed. It was pointed out the Emerald Ash borer is always a threat. At this time, the little critters are moving east up from the CT River. CT has released parasites that feed on eggs of the emerald ash borer in an attempt to reduce potential tree damage.

8. General Comments:

9. Public Comment:

10. Adjournment:

**MOTION #2 (10.17.19):** made by Gail Miller SECONDED BY Alan Holmberg that the Agriculture & Conservation Commission adjourn the meeting at 8:58 p.m.

**VOICE VOTE: UNANIMOUS;**

**MOTION CARRIES**

Respectfully submitted,  
Sherry Pollard

Susan Allen Chairman

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