

AGRICULTURE COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes
7:00 P.M., Tuesday, January 19, 2010
3rd Floor Meeting Room, TOWN HALL

Present

Members: Warren Herzig

Alternates: Geraldine Lombard, Joe Pasquale and Fred Mastele.

Absent

Vivian Caturano, Richard Porter, Melissa Greenbacker, and Roger Passavant

1. The meeting was called to order by Warren Herzig, Chairman, at 7:10 pm, roll call was taken. Following the roll call, Warren Herzig invited the following alternates to be seated for the meeting: Geraldine, Lombard for Richard Porter, Joe Pasquale for Melissa Greenbacker, and Fred Mastele for Vivian Caturano.

2. A motion was made by Joe Pasquale and seconded by Geraldine Lombard to accept the January 19, 2010 meeting agenda as presented. Approved unanimously.

3. Prior to approval of the minutes for the December 15, 2009 meeting Warren Herzig stated that Item 4 (meeting dates) had to be amended as follows: The Durham Agriculture Commission (DAC) will meet the third Tuesday of each month at the third floor meeting room of the Durham Town Hall. The DAC meeting dates for 2010 are January 19, February 16, March 16, April 20, May 18, June 15, July 20, August 17, September 21, October 19, November 16, and December 21.

A motion was made by Geraldine Lombard and seconded by Joe Pasquale to accept the minutes of the December 15, 2009 meeting as amended. Approved unanimously.

4. There was a discussion of the Agricultural Inventory (farms, stables, etc.) being prepared by the DAC. The four maps being used are in various stages of completion. A meeting was planned for 10:00 am on January 30, 2010 at the meeting room in the Durham Library to discuss the inventory, how to sort the information, and how it can be used. Warren Herzig will arrange for the room.

5. There was a discussion of a "Right to Farm Ordinance". The pros and cons will need to be determined and it was suggested that the DAC should meet with the other Boards and Commissions to get input into their perception of agriculture. Oxford, CT recently enacted a "Right to Farm Ordinance" and Warren Herzig asked Fred Mastele if he could get further information on the history, which he will report at the next meeting.

6. Warren Herzig summarized the meeting of the First Selectman with Town Officials, Boards and Commissions. Warren stated the Bill Milardo (Durham Health Department) and George Eames (Planning

and Zoning) would be interested in meeting with the DAC. It was determined that it would help to resolve conflicts and good for the DAC to have dialog with the other Boards and Commissions.

7. Public Comment

Sue White commented that she was glad that Durham had an Agriculture Commission to help promote and develop agriculture in town, and that the DAC is doing a fabulous job. She suggested that we pursue getting an agriculture viability grant to help with our expenses.

Warren Herzig announced there would be a meeting regarding the development of agriculture policy sponsored by the Connecticut Council of Municipalities in New Have, CT on January 28, 2010.

8. A motion to adjourn was made by Geraldine Lombard and seconded by Joe Pasquale and the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Frederick J. Mastele