

RECV'D: Office of the Town Clerk
April 26, 2010 at 8:53am

**Durham Agricultural Commission
Meeting Minutes
7 p.m., Tuesday, April 20, 2010
Lower Meeting Room, Durham Library**

Present

Members: Warren Herzig, Melissa Greenbacker, Richard Porter, Vivian Caturano
Alternates: Joe Pasquale, Geraldine Lombard

Absent

Members: Roger Passavant
Alternate: Fred Mastele

1. The meeting was called to order by Warren Herzig at 7:07 p.m. Roll Call was taken. Warren Herzig asked Joe Pasquale to be seated at the meeting for absent member Roger Passavant.

2. A motion was made by Joe Pasquale and seconded by Richard Porter to accept the April 20, 2010 agenda with the following correction: meeting place is lower meeting room, Durham Library. Motion passed unanimously.

3. A motion was made by Vivian Caturano and seconded by Richard Porter to accept the minutes of the April 13, 2010 special meeting; and the March 16, 2010 regular meeting with the following correction: replace "water furnaces" with "wood burning furnaces" under public comment. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Old Business:

- Ag Inventory: Two maps were unavailable for review, so the ag inventory review was tabled .
- Right to Farm Ordinance: Warren Herzig stated that he had talked to Laura Francis regarding a possible right to farm ordinance. She recommended that the commission look into a review of various town ordinances and how they affect agriculture. Warren will also speak to a member of Guilford's Ag Commission regarding that town's regulations review. He will see what the process is and whether a grant is necessary.
- Conservation Commission Request: Warren Herzig reviewed the request from the Conservation Commission regarding a couple of town properties. They would like the Curtis Woodland and the former Parmalee property on Rt. 17 mowed. Anyone interested in these properties should contact Bob Melvin. The Ag Commission felt that it should offer technical assistance only to the Conservation Commission. Bob Melvin is drafting a letter regarding what input the Conservation Commission is looking for from the Ag Commission.
- Farm Viability Grants: It was noted that North Branford received a grant to put a

roof on a barn on town owned property. It was suggested that Durham look into this for maintenance of their town owned properties.

5. New Business:

- Joe Pasquale spoke about the plans for the Durham Business Expo to be held October 16, 2010 at the Durham Fairgrounds. The Expo will be reaching out to all businesses in Durham, including agricultural businesses. Warren Herzig noted that the Ag Commission could display the ag inventory maps at the Expo. Businesses will be allowed to sell products.
- Warren Herzig passed out a copy of the Town of Woodstock's website. A link on the website, "Woodstock Grown", lists the agriculture in that town. It was suggested that Durham look into a similar link on the town website.
- A motion was made by Dick Porter and seconded by Joe Pasquale that any further joint meeting involving a request for recommendations from the Conservation Commission be held on the Agricultural Commission regular meeting night, due to the difficulty of Ag Commission members to attend special meetings. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Public Comment: Sue White said that the Animal Response Team is planning to send out surveys to horse owners later in the year. She stated that some owners may not want to give up business information on such surveys.

7. A motion to adjourn was made by Richard Porter and seconded by Joe Pasquale. Motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Greenbacker