

draft MINUTES
Guilford Agricultural Commission
November 19, 2018
Community Center- 32 Church St

GUILFORD TOWN HALL
18 NOV 26 AM 11:28

Informal Meeting

Note: Minutes not final until approved at subsequent meeting.

Members Present: Kim Brockett and Peter Perkins

Absent: Janet Dudley, Cliff Merwin, and John Hammarlund

Staff: Kevin Magee – Environmental Planner

Items on the agenda were addressed in the order that would best expedite the meeting.

Commissioner Peter Perkins opened the informal meeting at 7:44 p.m.

GUEST: Herb Burnstein, Noelle Flamand, Jim Goodman and Heather Goodman

Public Forum moved to New Business

New Business –James Goodman, 86 Middle Road read a letter into record. The letter indicated that he would like an amendment to the 16 pheasants so he can keep 31 pheasants and that during the public hearing process neighbors expressed concern about run off from the property affecting water quality downstream. Since the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting he has installed flashing around the aviaries to divert surface water and added visors to prevent rain ingress.

Peter Perkins asked how many bird did you have? James Goodman indicated and about 40ish and stopped raising ring neck pheasants and culled some.

Kim Brocket asked about the size of his property. James Goodman stated it is about 1/3 of an acre and that since the public hearing he has installed diversion trenches around the aviaries.

Peter Perkins asked James what the pheasants are used for. James Goodman indicated they are pets and are taken to shows.

Peter Perkins asked if they are hatched on sight. James Goodman indicated that in June most of the birds are hatched.

Kevin Magee asked what sizes the aviaries are. James indicated that he has two medium domes of 190 square feet each and a hoop house that is 182 square feet.

Kevin Magee asked about his management process. James Goodman indicated that food is stored in the metal containers. There is mulch in front half and straw in the rear of the aviaries. The aviaries get cleaned out once a week. He has been bringing in the straw to the dump and would like to compost onsite. He has installed a drain around the hoop house.

Kim Brocket asked what is the intent for having pheasants?

James stated he would like to show the birds. The pheasant lays about 10 eggs per year.

Kim Brocket asked what is the population? James Goodman stated approximately half are male and female. He does not want to increase flock.

Kim Brocket asked if they get raised for hunting. James Goodman stated that those are the ring necks that they do not breed them anymore.

Public Comment:

Herb Burnstein indicated other neighbors can now see the enclosures. Flamand's house is 8 feet from property line and his concern is regarding the Planning and Zoning approval. What was frame of reference for the decision. He understands that proportionality was used. Herb Burnstein is concerned about the slope with a 12% drop between Brookside and Milford Road as well as intermittent stream between the properties that enters town drainage system and flows into Iron Stream. Herb Burnstein noted that the criteria in the regulations are that animal keeping areas should not be on land over sewer system and the septic area was not defined in the previous applications. He asked the question of why someone needs 31 birds as pets? The special permit required the applicant to reduce the population from 31 to 16 by December 25, 2018. The only recourse Flamands have is to go to court. The issue of property value has an impact and doesn't think that the pheasants should be there.

James indicated that he installed three new sections of a fence and has additional sections to install to block the view from Flamands property.

Peter Perkins asked Noelle Flamand what her biggest concern is? Water Quality from runoff or sale of house?

Noelle Flamands biggest concern is the aviaries and out buildings. There is a lot of messy stuff.

James Goodman indicated that he sees no difference between 30 and 16 birds. Heather Goodman indicated they could do more to protect view.

Peter Perkins asked about procedure and what is on file to follow. Kevin Magee noted no new applications have been filed to the Planning and Zoning Commission. James Goodman indicated that he has filed the special permit in town clerks office.

Herb Burnstein indicated that the staff was on site multiple times.

Heather Goodman submitted a letter from Amanda Thomson, Agricultural Teacher at the Middletown Regional Agriculture Science & Technology Program regarding Heather's experience with working with poultry.

Peter Perkins would like to set up a site visit on a weekend and selected December 9, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.

5. Old Business

A. Northern Heights Well Grant

- Roof shingles need to be installed and the well has was winterized last week.

B. Agricultural Display for Special Events

Kim Brockett indicated that the commission had a great display at the Guilford Fair. This display can be used at the Earthday event at the Fairgrounds, the Dudley Farm, and the North Guilford Fair.

C. Discussion regarding Membership

The commission needs additional alternate members

D. Discussion regarding licensed properties.

Kevin Magee indicated that the Hammarlund are behind in their payments. Charlie Potter is up to date and has paid his second payment for the year. Dino Esposito payment is due at the beginning of the year. Kim Brockett asked if Dino Esposito has taken care of the invasive in his fields. Kevin Magee indicated that he needs to check on it.

6 Meeting dates for 2019 were reviewed.

8. Adjournment

Motion by Commissioner Peter Perkins and seconded by Commissioner Kim Brockett to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m. was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin W. Magee', written in a cursive style.

Kevin W. Magee

Environmental Planner

Received
11/19/2019

Dear Agricultural Commissioners,

A month and a half ago a Special Permit was issued by the Planning and Zoning Commission allowing my daughter and I to keep Golden Pheasants on my property. All but one of my immediate neighbors had signed their support to my keeping 31 pheasants on my property, but that neighbor, along with a few people down on the lake, did express a concern about runoff from my aviaries affecting water quality downstream, so the Commissioners limited the permit to 10 years, and our flock size to your minimum recommended 16 birds. Everybody that has visited my property has seen my enthusiasm and diligence in addressing this concern by flashing my aviaries to divert surface water and adding visors to prevent rain ingress, while rebuilding my aviaries in full compliance with Zoning regulations. Our Town Officials will confirm that I have treated them with respect, acted in a timely manner, and followed their suggestions. Heather and I will continue to exceed best husbandry practices, welcome suggestions, address any concerns, and continue to share our pheasants with this community.

I hope this evening you will see fit to grant us an amendment to our Special Permit allowing us to keep our whole flock of 31 pheasants. Thank you all very much for your time, consideration, and dedication to Guilford.



Received
11/19/2018

Middletown Regional Agriculture Science & Technology Program
Middletown High School
200 LaRosa Lane
Middletown CT 06457
860.704.4599
thomsona@mpsct.org

November 19, 2018

Dear Agricultural Commissioners of the Town of Guilford,


This letter is in support of the Goodman family's application to continue their small scale Golden Pheasant operation. As a teacher who helped mentor Heather Goodman during her four years of high school study in our Agriculture Education program I can attest to the quality and dedication of Heather and her family in providing the very best quality of care to these animals, as well being responsible neighbors and contributing citizens.

Heather's passion for her birds has led her to study Animal Science at the University of Connecticut, where she is successfully completing her first semester of study. During her high school years, Heather documented more than 1,200 hours of practical experience caring for her animals. Truly, this endeavor has become a project that has brought her entire family together, and I know her parents have become as passionate about and dedicated to the birds as Heather. The Town of Guilford should be very proud of Heather; in 2018 she was a Silver Medalist for Specialty Animal Production from the Connecticut FFA Association for her flock of game birds. Furthermore, Heather was Captain of our 2018 State Champion Poultry Evaluation team which recently competed at the National FFA Poultry Science Career Development Event in Indianapolis this past October, earning a National Bronze Medal. Truly, she should be commended for her considerable expertise and accomplishments in Poultry Science.

Heather's experiences with her own flock of poultry and game birds have led to her current course of study at UCONN to study Animal Science with a minor in wildlife management with a focus in ornithology. The USDA estimates the poultry industry to have a \$42 Billion impact on our US economy, growing at a rate of up to 9 percent each year; the gamebird industry itself is valued at \$5 billion. These are viable, thriving and growing industries with a tremendous amount of potential to positively impact on our economy and agricultural sector.

I would like to congratulate Heather Goodman and her family for their success as game bird producers, and for being responsible environmental stewards and contributing members of our community. It is my sincere hope that the Town of Guilford, that prides itself on its agricultural heritage, will recognize the Goodman family's commitment to their pheasant operation, and embrace it as a forward thinking, creative example of an agricultural enterprise.

Sincerely,


Amanda Thomson
Agriculture Teacher