

APPROVED MINUTES
Guilford Agricultural Commission
December 16, 2019
Guilford Community Center

GUILFORD TOWN HALL
20 FEB -6 PM 2:03

Note: Minutes not final until approved at subsequent meeting.

Members Present: Kim Brockett, Janet Dudley, & Peter Perkins

Absent: Diane Augur, Michael Biroscak, John Hammarlund, & Cliff Merin

Staff: Kevin Magee – Environmental Planner

Guest: Paul Wetterman and John Wetterman

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

Commissioner Peter Perkins opened the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

1. Approval of Agenda

Motion made by Commissioner Kim Brockett and seconded by Commissioner Janet Dudley to approve the agenda. The motion was unanimously approved.

2. Approval of Minutes

- October 21, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Commissioner Kim Brockett and seconded by Commissioner Janet Dudley to approve the meeting minutes from November 18, 2019. The motion was unanimously approved.

3. Public Forum (3 minutes per person)

- No one spoke during public forum

4. Licensed Properties

A. Dudley Preserve County Road: Kevin Magee needs to be contact Charlie Potter regarding brush hogging the edges of the field and capabilities of his equipment. It was noted that manure has been placed on the field.

B. Northern Heights Grazing Area – Kevin Magee talked with Dino Esposito if Stoneridge Farm and he needs the access way installed so he can get to his upper grazing area. If

John cannot do the work Dino indicated that he would conduct the work if his license is extended.

C. Northern Heights Agricultural Area

Kevin Magee reported that a certified letter was mailed to Half Mile Acres on November 21, 2019 noting that the fields have not been cut last summer or this year and that they have not paid license fees for November 2018, May 2019, and November 2019. The letter indicated the commission was interested in waiving the license fees for assisting the town with creating the access way and removing vegetation that was growing in the license area. Kevin Magee has not heard back from the Hammarlund's regarding how they want to proceed with the license area. Commissioner Kim Brockett made a motion that the Agricultural Commission recommends to the Board of Selectman that Half Mile Acres license for Haying/Harvesting Crops be withdrawn for failing to conduct the required work and for nonpayment of license fees. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Janet Dudley and unanimously approved.

5. Old Business

- A. Northern Heights Well House – Commissioner Peter Perkins needs to install roof shingles.
- B. Discussion regarding membership – Paul and John Wetterman expressed interest in becoming members of the commission. They both had applications filled out which they provided to Kevin Magee to deliver to the Selectman's office.
- C. Access way to upper grazing area- The commission discussed the options for getting the access way to the upper grazing area at Northern Heights installed. The commission first choice would be seeing if Public Works would be able to install the access way followed by paying Dino Esposito who has a vested interest in obtaining access, or paying an outside contractor.
- D. Agricultural Display – The commission members need to reach out to other farmers in town to get items that they produce so the display is just not displaying items for one farm.
- E. Agricultural Signs – Kevin Magee found the name of the company that the signs were ordered from (Voss Signs) and will get a price for replacements. Kevin Magee will check with them to see if they have better fade resistant signs.

F. Map Brochure. The commission reviewed the existing farm map and noted that several of the farms no longer exist and that there may be new farms to be added. The commissioners need to reach out to them. Commissioner Peter Perkins will check with Tyco in Branford for pricing. Also need to check with Larry Kalbfeld who produced the maps to get a cost for updating.

G. The commission discussed the need to determine who is currently cutting the former Potter/Rossiter Property on County Road that the town owns. The commission would like to license out that property for haying. Kevin Magee will check with the Land Trust to see if they know who is conducting the work.

6. New Business:

A. Commissioner Peter Perkins reported that 5 Star Performance located off of Bluff View Drive has manure piles at several locations including a large pile on the hill that is running off down the hill toward the stream. Need to have Health Department and the Zoning Officer look at the property.

7. Other Business:

A. 2020 meeting dates and location – Approved at last month meeting

B. Peter Perkins indicated that he drove by the horse property on Landon's Way and noticed that the dumpster was not covered as required by the special permit.

8. Correspondence

None

9. Adjournment

Motion was made by Commissioner Janet Dudley and seconded by Commissioner Kim Brockett to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 p.m. The motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by

Kevin W. Magee
Environmental Planner

