

Approved MINUTES
Guilford Agricultural Commission
April 17, 2017
Community Center- 32 Church St
Informal Meeting

Note: Minutes not final until approved at subsequent meeting.

Members Present: Peter Perkins and Kim Brockett

Absent: Bill Butterly, Janet Dudley Clifford Merin John Hammerlund

Staff: Kevin Magee – Environmental Planner

Guest: Diane Esposito

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

Vice Chairman Peter Perkins called the meeting to order at 7:40 pm

1. Approval of Agenda - The agenda was reviewed.
2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the March 20, 2017 meeting could not be approved do to a lack of quorum

3. Public Forum.
No items were discussed in public forum.

4. New Business
-No new business discussed.

5. Old Business

- A. Northern Heights Grazing Area. Kevin Magee reported that the letter that the commission reviewed at last month's meeting regarding the deficiencies with Stone Ridge Farm was sent certified mail and was received by Dino Esposito. Since receipt of the letter Dino Esposito has made his payment for the year, has moved the excavator off of the property, and has collected soils samples of his area which were submitted to Agricultural Experimentation Center for testing. Once he gets the results back he will provide his yearly report.

- B. Northern Heights Fence Grant: Kevin Magee reported that all the barbed wire fencing was installed last week with the assistance of the town's land steward. Finishing this task should complete the towns grant requirements.
 - C. Northern Heights Well Grant –Kevin Magee reported that he talked with Dino Esposito regarding his permission for a well to be installed within his license area. Dino reported to Kevin that he does not want to pay the electrical bill. Kevin indicated that he would hate to see the town loose the grant do to the issue with the electrical bill since the town would be getting a long term benefit of having a well on the property. Commissioner Perkins and Commissioner Brockett concurred that they would like to see the well installed with funding from the grant and the town cover the cost of the electricity through the end of Stone Ridge Farms license agreement. Kevin Magee will follow up with the first selectman regarding the electrical bill.
 - D. Agricultural Display for Special Events - Commissioner Perkins indicated that Barbara Hammerlund at the last month's meeting indicated that she would like to see the commission have a display at the Earthfest event at the Guilford Fairgrounds on April 22, 2017 and asked about what is being planned. Kevin indicated that he will follow up with Barbara. Commissioner Brockett indicated that she will be there with her donkeys and would hand out the farm maps at her area if the commission could not get a display together.
- 6. Other Business – The commission discussed the need to recruit members to be on the commission and will check with past members.
 - 7. Correspondence – Email from Bill Butterly indicating that he unfortunately is going to have to resign from the commission and asked what he needs to do.
 - 8. Adjournment

The meeting at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by

Kevin W. Magee
Environmental Planner