

draft MINUTES
Guilford Agricultural Commission
May 16, 2016
Community Center- 32 Church St, Leete Room
Note: Minutes not final until approved at subsequent meeting.

Members Present: Peter Perkins, Paul Wetteman, Bill Butterly & Kim Brockett

Absent: Gary Arbuckle , Janet Dudley, and John Hammerlund

Staff: Kevin Magee – Environmental Planner

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

Chairman William Butterly called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm

1. Approval of Agenda

Motion made by Csmr. P. Perkins and seconded by Csmr. P. Wetteman to approve the agenda and it was unanimously approved.

2. Approval of Minutes
- March 21, 2016

Motion made by Csmr. P. Wetteman and seconded by Csmr. K. Brockett to approve the meeting minutes from April 18, 2016 with the addition of Janet Dudley noted as being absent. The motion was unanimously approved.

3. Public Forum
-None

4. New Business
-Northern Heights Neighbor Issues- Environmental Planner Kevin Magee explained to the commission that the neighbors adjacent to the Northern Heights License area are cutting their lawns over their property lines and into the town property licensed by Stoneridge Farm operated by Dino Esposito. Kevin reported to the commission that he received a phone message from Dino a couple weeks ago while he was on vacation and investigated the complaint when he returned from vacation. At that time it appeared to be last year's cutting. While Kevin was going by the property on Saturday May 7, 2016 he observed the lawn service mowing the lawn and notified them to not mow on the town side of the property post or else they could be arrested for criminal trespass. On Thursday May 12, 2016 Kevin received a call from Dino upset

that the neighbors are cutting on his license area. Kevin meet with Dino Esposito and Officer Mark O'Conner of the Guilford Police Department at the property on Friday May 13, 2016. Officer O'Conner saw the area cut on Town Property and was going to make contact with the neighbors concerning the mowing encroachment. On Friday Kevin also posted regulation signs adjacent to the properties on Wimler Lane so the neighbors are familiar with the rules for the open space. On Monday May 16th Kevin received several emails from the adjacent residents. One was from the property owner Hahesh Ajsaonkar at 46 Wimler Lane requesting that the town's contractor mow a 4 to 6 feet out from the property line. Kevin indicated that he invited the residence to attend the next agricultural commission meeting.

Csmr. Bill Butterly indicated that he was included in the email conversation today and that he sent a strong email reply to Kevin Magee which was copied to the residences. Csmr. Butterly email requested that the town attorney should review the matter for possible damages against the homeowners.

Csmr. Perkins agreed that Town Counsel should review the situation.

Csmr. K. Brockett noted that any conversations with the residences should not be a negation. The residences moved in next to an active farm.

The commissioners were concerned about the boundary post being knocked over.

5. Old Business

- Northern Heights Fence Grant –Csmr. B. Butterly finished the fencing, but the barb wire needs to be finished. John Hammerlund should be contacted to see if his spool holder can be used to assist with the installation of the barbed wire. Kevin indicated that he and the land stewards will be meeting with Dino and his son to install the gates and to check on a lower section of the pasture which may still require fencing.
- Northern Heights Well Grant – Kevin Magee indicated that we have preliminary approval for the grant from the conservation district. The CT DEEP who is administering the grant is working on drawing up a contract. Kevin asked Csmr. Perkins if he can provide construction details of the shed for the building permit.

6. Other Business

Csmr. B. Butterly indicated that he was contacted by David Anderson, Town Planner for the Town of Madison, regarding development rights funding or other protective measures for a farm in Madison. Csmr. Butterly asked the commission if they knew of any funding sources to let him know.

7. Correspondence – Kevin Magee provided the commission with the email correspondences regarding the neighbors mowing on the Northern Heights Open Space.
8. Adjournment

Motion by Csmr. P. Wetteman and seconded by Csmr. P. Perkins to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by

Kevin W. Magee
Environmental Planner