

Approved MINUTES
Guilford Agricultural Commission
July 20, 2015
Community Center- 32 Church St, Leete Room
Note: Minutes not final until approved at subsequent meeting.

**Members Present: Tom Pinchbeck, Paul Wettemann, Janet Dudley, Peter Perkins,
William Butterly and Kim Brockett**

Absent: Gary Arbuckle and John Hammerlund

**Staff: Kevin Magee – Environmental Planner
Michelle C. Nazario – Recording Secretary**

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

Chairman Pinchbeck called the meeting to order at 7:34 pm

1. Approval of Agenda

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

2. Approval of Minutes
- June 15, 2015

Motion made by Csmr. W. Butterly and seconded by Csmr. P. Perkins the approval of meeting minutes from June 15, 2015 it was unanimously approved.

3. Public Forum

None

4. New Business

- Review of meeting with Cody Christensen- Csmr. T. Pinchbeck explained to the commission the problem Cody Christensen is having with a town commission and putting up greenhouse in wetlands and it being classified as, As of Right, due to farming. Kevin Magee stated that there was a soil scientist hired to delineate the soils after the placement of the greenhouse. IWC is waiting for the report from the second soil scientist and will be heard at the September meeting due to the time schedule he withdrew his application and then resubmitted. He has in the past submitted “After the Fact” application to the wetlands commission. Csmr. T. Pinchbeck stated that Agricultural Commission will be keep informed.

Csmr. W. Butterly asked what would he like the Ag Com to do?

Kevin Magee stated that there are of federal grants to help farmers keep out of the wetlands area.

Csmr. T. Pinchbeck asked Cody Christensen to keep in touch with him, but it sounds more like procedural issues.

5. Old Business

- Northern Heights Fencing Grant – Kevin Magee stated that they have received the final contracts, but the legal department needs Dino Esposito’s written approval before signing the contract. Dino Esposito is hesitant to sign since the wetlands provide a source of water for the cows. It is the commissions understanding from approving the contract that the required water supply and shelter are at the adjacent property at 5051 Durham Rd. The commission believes that the stream and wetlands area dried up in the summer therefore there needs to be a positive water source from them. There is a timing constraint of about two months to do the project. Kevin Magee will contact them to see if it can be carried over.

Csmr. P. Perkins asked if there is anymore grazing up there.
Kevin Magee stated that Dino’s son is allowed to graze the cows.

- Review potential commission members –

Csmr. T. Pinchbeck stated that Kim Brockett will now be a full time Commissioner on the Agricultural Commission Board.

Ann McIntyer-Lahner has decided to not be on the commission due to other commitments.

Csmr. J. Dudley will step down as soon as another commissioner is voted in to the commission.

The commission voted to elect Csmr. W. Butterly as chairman and Csmr. P. Perkins to be vice-chairman.

Csmr. T. Pinchbeck made a motion for Kim Brockett to fill the position of full time member of Csmr. T. Pinchbeck and Csmr. W. Butterly seconded. All were in favor.

- Northern Heights Grazing – Update – Kevin Magee updated the commission regarding the interior lot. The property owner is willing to work with town and possibly driveway easement. Kevin Magee went with Dino Esposito to see alternate way to get to his license property.

Csmr. J. Dudley asked if any clearing needs to be done

Csmr. P. Perkins stated that there is a way off of Crooked Hill Rd and go along the fenced road.

Kevin Magee stated that there needs to be brush hogging done, it is starting to fill in.

6. Other Business

Csmr. P. Perkins updated the commission on the Veronica Fritz on County Road. The Connecticut State Police came with the animal control officer to her house to investigate the situation with the complaints regarding the sheep. The state investigator did some research into the false complaints and Joan Rossiter of 250 Elm St. was arrested for harassment and filing false reports.

7. Correspondence

- CT Farm Bureau – Challenging Legislative Session – Csmr. K. Brockett is a member of the Ct Farm Bureau and reports that there will be some changes with Nationwide with the insurance policies within the next year. They will be hosting an upcoming meeting in Guilford at Bishops.

8. Adjournment

Motion by Csmr. P. Perkins and seconded by Csmr. W. Butterly to adjourn the meeting at 8:39 p.m. was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by

Michelle C. Nazario
Recording Secretary