

COLCHESTER AGRICULTURE COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

September 16, 2019

Meeting Room #2

Call to order: 7:00 pm, Chris Bourque

Present Representatives: C. Bourque, D. Rosenblatt

Absent Representatives: D. Wisniewski

Present Alternates: L. Curtis

Present Selectman Liaison: Stan Soby

1. Approve Minutes 6/17/2019:

Move: L. Curtis

Second: D. Rosenblatt

Unanimous Approval

2. Additions to Agenda: None

3. Farm Guide and Sign Project update:

Leslie Curtis provided a complete document explaining the tasks required to implement the Farm Guide Brochure in great detail. The document provides a concise list of all members who performed any aspect of the implementation. Also documented were the groups/businesses who donated monies for the printing of the initial 1000 copies of the brochure.

A copy of this document is provided as an addendum to the minutes.

The Farm Brochure will be presented in dynamic form on line and updated electronically by Catherine Shea. The dynamic form will be available on <https://www.colchesterlandtrust.org/farms> . A link to this website will be on the town website.

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S. Soby recommended that CT state senators and the CT Environmental Committee be provided copies of the brochure and implementation document. L. Curtis will contact these individuals/agencies.

- 4. Citizens Comments:** C. Bourque contacted Debbie Cantor with the Connecticut Agriculture Education Council regarding reading material and lesson plans outlining CT Agriculture in general and Colchester long history of agriculture specifically. The response was overwhelming, all classes wished to participate.

Katherine Kosiba will be working with the Farm to School Committee at Bacon Academy and Jack Jackter specifically to address the fruit trees and their maintenance.

Bacon student present: Morgan Shumaker

- 5. Motion to adjourn meeting:** D. Rosenblatt
Second: L. Curtis

Meeting adjourned 7:28 pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by Commission Secretary, Donna Rosenblatt

Colchester Farm/Farmstand Brochure Initiative

During the summer of 2019 a committee of citizens interested in creating and publishing a brochure to publicize the farms and farm-stands in our town met several times, collaborated extensively, and produced a very professional-looking document. In August/early September 2019 the project was successfully completed and brochures along with lucite holders to contain and display them were distributed to various locations around town.

This initiative had received the endorsement of the Colchester Agriculture Commission at its May 2019 meeting. This memo is intended to become part of the public record by being discussed at the September 16, 2019 Ag Commission meeting and subsequently included as an addendum to the minutes of this meeting.

Members of this committee were: Katherine Kosiba of the Colchester Garden Club; Catherine Shea, Co-President of the Colchester Land Trust; Gigi Liverant of the Colchester Historical Society; Rosemary Longo-Nutt owner of NuttHouse Farm; Julianna Cameron, Colchester resident with graphic and fine art credentials; Mary Bylone, Colchester Board of Education member; Leslie Curtis, Alternate member of the Colchester Agriculture Commission and Board Member of the Colchester Land Trust; and Carol Cole a graphic artist and candidate for designation of Master Gardener. The end product is the result of the photos provided initially from the archives of the Historical Society and augmented by images from several of the committee members and the graphic design work of both Carol Cole and Julianna Cameron. Wording of the brochure and organization of the content was very much a collaborative effort of the entire committee.

1000 copies of the brochure were produced initially with funding provided by the Colchester Land Trust, Cato Corner Farm, Hop Culture Farm and Brewing Company, Priam Vineyards, Gano's Power Equipment and Sales, D.H. Marvin & Son, Inc., and Tractor Supply Co of Colchester.

The information in this brochure is intended to be dynamic in the future. The Colchester Land Trust will be responsible for maintaining the document by adding new listings as requested by farmers who wish to participate and eliminating entries from farms which may over time no longer be active in our town. A link to this site is on the town's website on the Agriculture Commission's page and is hosted by the Colchester Land Trust at <https://www.colchesterlandtrust.org/farms>.

(recap submitted by Leslie Curtis)

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