

**Town of Colchester
Agriculture Commission Minutes
December 20, 2021
Meeting via Zoom
Time 6:30 pm**

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Members Present: Donna Rosenblatt, Carla Roselli, Leslie Curtis, Tim Francis (via phone 6:45)

Members Absent:

Alternates Present: Dave Wasniewski

Liaison Present: Rosemary Coyle

1. CALL TO ORDER: Donna Rosenblatt, Vice-Chair, 6:33

2. ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO AGENDA: None. Due to the meeting time change, this is classified as a Special Meeting and as such, additions/changes to the agenda are not permitted.

3. CITIZENS' COMMENTS: No Citizens present

4. CONSENT AGENDA:

Approve the Minutes of the November 15, 2021 Agriculture Commission Meeting. Motion Leslie Curtis. Approve: Carla Roselli, Leslie Curtis, Donna Rosenblatt, Dave Wasniewski. Abstain: Tim Francis

5. DISCUSSION: Suggestions for American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) recovery funding.

- Rosemary Coyle reported that the ARPA committee will be involving a consultant to follow the application process. This is due to the fact that the CFO and Assistant CFO will be leaving the Town of Colchester.

-Rosemary will be e-mailing the ARPA Application Toolkit to assist in any ARPA requests

8. OLD BUSINESS:

a) None of the meetings recently have included farm concerns per all members present.

b) Leslie Curtis reported that at the Board of Selectmen's Meeting on 12/16/21, the language change to Chapter 92 of the Town Code was changed. The new language will enable private agencies, like the Land Trust to partner with the Town in public conservation issues. There will still be Commission involvement.

c) Donna Rosenblatt reported that she will be contacting the School Superintendent to get permission to involve the High School students, possibly through Capstone Projects, in videography of the farms for the webpage.

Colchester Agriculture Commission Minutes
12/20/21

In the meantime, Donna will be contacting farms who already have websites to allow them to be published on the Town Agri-Tourism and Age Commission pages.

d) Carla Roselli reported on the submission of the CT Grown Grant application. The grant application with accompanying documentation was completed, but the State Grant software caused some difficulty. She submitted the application directly to Serena Thibideaux, who oversees Grant submissions.

If approved, we will be notified in February. The school wants to initiate the program in May.

9. ADJOURN: Leslie Curtis motioned the meeting adjourned, seconded by Carla Roselli. Meeting adjourned at 7:11 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by: Donna Rosenblatt, Agriculture Commission Chairman performing volunteer Secretary duties