PROPOSAL TO BOARD OF SELECTMEN

MOTION: To facilitate/create an agri-tourism webpage on the Town of Colchester website, highlighting Colchester farmers, equestrians, livestock, forestry, beekeeping and all other forms of agriculture.

To effectuate this motion, several groups should be involved:

1. The Economic Development Committee has been contacted for advice regarding this idea. They will remain a resource throughout.
2. The Tax Assessor’s Office has provided an initial listing of farmers who are currently reporting property tax information.
3. As Selectman Liaison, Rosemary Coyle is involved to ensure appropriate involvement
4. Superintendent Burt was contacted initially to outline the project and obtain permission to contact Principal Peel at Bacon Academy
5. Principal Peel at Bacon Academy has been involved to encourage amateur Videographers, journalists, theatre and public speaking students to assist in creating this webpage
6. An interactive map should be considered so visitors to the site can visualize where the farm or facility is located
7. Opportunities for educational presentations, such as: sheep shearing, greenhouse growing, fruit trees, cheese making, chicken maintenance, horse maintenance, honey harvesting and myriad other topics. These presentations could be accessed by Colchester teachers as part of an agricultural curriculum
8. This should be an ongoing website, evolving as the Town of Colchester evolves, so there should be access for visitors to the webpage to ask questions
9. Links to current farm websites can be the initial, immediate offering while video presentations are developed
10. Colchester farmers will be contacted to encourage involvement.
11. A Facebook page could be created to provide a platform for videos to keep the town’s computer storage load at a minimum for this project

All questions can be forwarded to Donna Rosenblatt, Ag Commission Chair, (860)319-4343