

AGENDA  
Colchester Agriculture Commission  
September 20, 2021  
Meeting via Zoom  
Time: 4:00 pm

RECEIVED  
COLCHESTER, CT  
2021 SEP 17 AM 9:06  
*Gayle Furman*  
GAYLE FURMAN  
TOWN CLERK

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Webinar ID: 816 9501 3119

1. Call to Order
2. ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO THE AGENDA
3. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS
4. CONSENT AGENDA
  - a. Approve the Minutes of the April 19, 2021 Agriculture Commission Meeting
5. Presentation by Matthew Bordeaux providing clarification of the Floating Zone guidelines
6. DISCUSSION: How the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) recovery funding can assist Colchester agriculture recover from this continuing COVID economy
7. DISCUSSION: Agriculture Commission participation/endorsement/promotion of National Women in Agriculture Week, focusing on local/Colchester celebrations/events
8. Old Business:
  - a) Ag Commission Members can contribute any information they may have received while sitting in on the various committee meetings
  - b) Rejuvenation of Farm to School Program
9. New Business:

MOTION from Dave Wasniewski to form a "Small Farm Economic Preservation and Sustainability Committee" with initial focus on renewing earlier efforts to abate excessive farm taxes based on an earlier CCSS (Cost of Community Services Study). The goal is to replicate the successful abatement initiatives in Woodstock CT and other CT towns

MOTION from Donna Rosenblatt to facilitate/create an agri-tourism webpage on the Town of Colchester website, highlighting Colchester farmers, equestrian, livestock, forestry, beekeeping and all other forms of agriculture. Please see ADDENDUM I.
10. Adjourn

## ADDDENDUM I

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 should be approached for advice/ideas regarding implementation
- 2) The Tax Assessor's Office should be approached for a complete list of farms on the tax role
- 3) As Selectman Liaison, Rosemary Coyle should be involved to ensure appropriate involvement
- 4) Bacon Academy should be involved. Amateur Videographers, journalists, theatre and public speaking students should be encouraged to assist in creating this webpage
- 5) An interactive map should be considered so visitors to the site can visualize where the farm or facility is located
- 6) Opportunities for educational presentations, such as: sheep shearing, greenhouse growing, fruit trees, cheese making, chicken maintenance, horse maintenance, honey haresting and myriad other topics. These presentations could be accessed by Colchester teachers as part of an agricultural curriculum
- 7) This should be an ongoing website, evolving as the Town of Colchester evolves, so there should be access for visitors to the website to ask questions