

Meeting Minutes
Canterbury Agricultural Commission
Thursday March 28, 2013
Canterbury Community Center
Canterbury, CT.

- I. Call to order:**
 - a. Dawn Pindell called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM
- II. Roll call:**
- III. Members:** Dawn Pindell, Kevin Lindell, Lee Wrigley, John Baldwin, Christina Fensley, Rob Tuttle
 - a. **Other:** None
- IV. Meeting Minutes**
 - a. John Baldwin made a motion to accept the previous minutes as written. This was seconded by Christina Fensley and passed unanimously.
- V. Opportunity for Public Comment:**
 - a. None
- VI. Guest Speaker:**
 - a. None
- VII. Old Business:**
 - a. **Farmland Preservation:**
 - i. No action was taken on this topic but Lee Wrigley committed to report back with more information regarding town funding.
 - b. **Tuesday Talks:**
 - i. A general discussion took place regarding speakers for Tuesday Talks. As Dr. Saperstein has committed to speak at another related event the group agreed to look elsewhere in the immediate future.
 - ii. John Baldwin suggested Emily Brooks, an author and promoter of sustainable agriculture who promotes entrepreneurship. John will gather more information and report back to the group.
 - iii. Dawn Pindell reported that the EDC wants someone to do a canning class and bread-baking class. Dawn suggested someone from extension – perhaps Diane Hirsch.
 - iv. Christine Fensley reported that the library is supportive of moving the talks to Saturday
 - c. **Walktober:**
 - i. Applications are due April 4th and Mavis Newton has agreed to host the walk although parking could be an issue. October 19th was proposed as a potential date with the 10AM walk taking place at Canterbury Horticulture and the 1PM walk at Baldwin Brook farm
- VIII. New Business**
 - a. **Goals and Activities for 2013:**

- i. The EDC has asked for more involvement with the October Festival and expressed that they wanted to make it more of a fun community activity. A general discussion followed on the appropriateness of the EDC providing funds for the Ag Commission. Lee presented the idea that this could be misconstrued by town members who look at the Ag Commission as operating with a \$0 budget. Kevin Lindell voiced opinion that it should be within the discretion of the EDC to spend their budget in areas they see fit.
- ii. Dawn mentioned that Eric Swenson will be putting together a flyer on how to use and sign up for the commercial kitchen at the town hall.
- iii. Lee Wrigley commented that speakers should draw attendees from a regional level and the group spent some time discussing the overall role of the commission and the direction of its actions.
- iv. Dawn introduced the idea of additional town tax exemptions and presented a list of CT towns that provide exemptions for farm buildings and equipment.
- v. Although the idea of a farm market was again discussed the commission reached the same conclusion that this was not a sustainable venture for this area given the number of other markets close by.
- vi. Christina Fensley gave a synopsis of the Masters in Ag Business class and expressed how good an opportunity it was to network.

IX. Next Meeting:

- a. To be held April 25th at the Canterbury Community Center

X. Adjournment:

- a. Rob Tuttle made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 PM. This was seconded by Christina Fensley and passed unanimously.