

Meeting Minutes
Canterbury Agricultural Commission
Thursday, January 26th 2012
Canterbury Community Center

- I. Call to order:**
 - a. Dawn Pindell called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM
- II. Roll call:**
 - a. Members: Dawn Pindell, Kevin Lindell, John Baldwin, Lee Wrigley, Christina Fensley, Rob Tuttle
 - b. Others: Mark Mersiejewski
- III. Review of minutes from November 2011:**
 - a. The minutes from the November meeting were reviewed. Dawn Pindell asked for these minutes to be amended to reflect a change in section VI.a. stating that “the committee would meet on the fourth Thursday of each month”. A motion was made by Lee Wrigley to accept the minutes as amended. This was seconded by Christina Fensley and passed unanimously.
- IV. Opportunity for Public Comment:**
 - a. None
- V. Guest Speaker:**
 - a. Ray Covino was unable to attend the meeting.
- VI. Old Business:**
 - a. **Sterling Agricultural Commission:**
 - i. John Baldwin reported that he had contacted Tony Denning in regards to hosting the February meeting at his business, Maple Leaf Farm, and that Tony had agreed. Dawn Pindell inquired about parking space and John stated that there would be no issue at all. Dawn has notified the Sterling Ag Commission of our intention to host a joint meeting but has not received a response.
 - b. **2012 Activity Planning:**
 - i. Christine Fensley has visited and surveyed some Canterbury Farms seeking input about future activities. She reported being uniformly well received and that everyone she spoke to was in favor of having guest speakers and were enthusiastic that the commission was actively promoting local agriculture. Many asked that we do a better job advertising the meetings.
 - ii. Mark Meirsejewski updated the group on the new EDC website and suggested that this would be a good venue for various forms of advertising.
 - c. **Agricultural Website:**
 - i. John Baldwin updated the group on the progress to date with the website and reports that he is close to having everything posted.

- ii. Christina provided John with a list of websites that should be accessible through the Ag website.
- iii. John solicited the group again for pictures with agricultural content.

d. Guest Speakers:

- i. Dawn Pindell suggested inviting Ray Covino to speak at the March meeting. The group was in agreement on this.
- ii. John Balwin inquired about the possibility of inviting elected officials to our meetings. A general discussion ensued on the pros and cons of this suggestion
 - 1. Kevin Lindell stated that while certain circumstances might warrant the invitation of someone in a political position it would be important to avoid being seen in a partisan light.
- iii. John reiterated his earlier statement that we ensure that we remain cognizant of the duties and charges set forth in the Agricultural Commission Ordinance. Dawn Pindell read the ordinance to the group and a general discussion ensued on how best to fulfill these charges without becoming over-extended or doing a subpar job. Dawn Pindell suspended discussion on this topic, gave a review of planned events through May and asked the group to ruminate on this subject before the next meeting.

e. Killingly VoAg:

- i. Lee Wrigley reported that he had spoken with Mr. Butterfield and been informed that one of the teachers from Killingly VoAg had travelled to Canterbury and presented to the student body. The issue of investigating the opportunity for students to travel to Killingly will be tabled until a later time.

VII. New Business:

a. Planned Events:

- i. Dawn Pindell has sent information to the quarterly town newsletter on upcoming planned events.

b. Farmland Preservation:

- i. Dawn reported to the group on the new program available for farmland preservation on a local level. She will email the group more information prior to the next meeting.

VIII. Other Business:

- a. John inquired about proper procedure and timing of the election of new board members. Lee will get answers to these questions for the next meeting.

IX. Next Meeting:

- a. February 23rd 2012

X. Adjournment:

- a. Lee Wrigley made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 PM. This was seconded by John Baldwin and passed unanimously.