

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Canterbury Agriculture Commission**  
**Thursday, January 26, 2017**  
**Canterbury Community Center**

**I. Call to order:**

- a. Chairperson Dawn Pindell called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM
- b. Recording device was unavailable to obtain audio transcript.

**II. Roll call:**

- a. Members present: Dawn Pindell, John Baldwin, Jessica Vincent, Kevin Lindell, Christina Fensley, and Rob Tuttle. Chairperson identified that a quorum was present.
- b. Visitors present: Chris Lippke (Selectman), and Matthew Vincent (local resident.)

**III. Review of minutes from previous meeting:**

- a. Minutes of the last official meeting held (November 17, 2016) had been previously promulgated by e-mail. No quorum was present for that meeting. Motion by Christina to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Rob. Motion passed unanimous, minutes placed on record.

**IV. Opportunity for Public Comment:**

- a. None.

**V. Old Business:**

- a.. Commission Membership: Jessica was sworn in as an official new member, for a full 3-year term beginning in January 2017. Discussion about needing to fill vacancies of current members whose terms expire on March 31, 2017 (Dawn, Kevin, John and Tim Tyler.) Christina (member) and Rob (alternate) terms expire in 2019.
- b. Killingly High School VoAg (FFA Student Scholarship): Update by Christina; discussion regarding objective change. School program counselor suggested that rather than establishing a scholarship, Canterbury organize a fund raiser to provide travel expense assistance for FFA students who will be attending the annual national meeting. Topic was tabled for further discussion at next meeting, pending additional information.
- c. Farm & Crafts Community Market: Chris and Jessica reported on approval of the grant application (submitted jointly by the town/Agriculture Commission in November). Discussion on specifics to access funding via the CT DOAG Agriculture Viability Grant Program (aka, the Farm Viability Grant), including how to use the funds for promotion and marketing of the weekly Canterbury market. Chris reported the town will receive an up-front check from the state of CT. Jessica reported on the vendor application form she drafted, with discussion of additional market organization.

-All in attendance agreed it would be beneficial to establish a permanent sub-committee (of the Ag Commission) to organize and manage the market. Agreed this sub-committee would meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday's of the month (6:00 – 6:30 PM) between now and the first market opening date scheduled for May 23<sup>rd</sup>. First meeting of the sub-committee will be at the town Municipal Center, 6:00 PM on February 9<sup>th</sup>.

- Canterbury Farm/Craft Market will be held weekly in 2017, and will be conducted each Tuesday from 4:30 – 7:00 PM, at the Municipal Center parking lot, running for 21 weeks and concluding October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017

- Additional subjects discussed/addressed included the need for a Farm/Craft Market website, including possible assistance establishing a web page, graphic design of marketing advertisements, logo and branding; discussion on utilizing local Canterbury resources and estimated expenses to budget, and potential utilization of Facebook.

- Discussed utilizing students who attend the Killingly High School Vo-Ag program to assist with the town Farm/Craft Market, providing opportunities for specific students to apply skills and experience gained through their class project.

- Brief discussion that Melissa Gill would be the point of contact for inquiries and application submission; that her Canterbury.Gov e-mail and office telephone would be promulgated as market contact information, and that Jessica would function as overall coordinator of the market (with exception of market days), with assistance from Melissa and other ‘to-be identified’ volunteers.

## **VI. New Business:**

a. Solar Panels: Discussion regarding siting of commercial solar generating facilities on prime Canterbury farming lands. Company to make presentation to town residents on February 7<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM. Dawn provided insight from State Dept of Agriculture meetings and other state hearings, on the state-wide issue. She mentioned that the Woodstock Ag Commission (Paul Miller) has become involved, drafting a letter of non-support to applicable state agencies.

- Motion by Christina, seconded by Jessica that the Canterbury Agriculture Commission draft and submit a letter to cognizant state government offices regarding loss of prime local farmland, without alternate state proposals. Motion passed unanimous, to be continued at next meeting.

b. WALKTOBER: John discussed the article he submitted for the upcoming Winter 2017 town newsletter, including a public request for volunteers as additional commission members, and for a volunteer farm to host this year’s Walktober (in October).

## **VII. Other**

a. None.

## **VIII. Next Meeting**

a. Next official Canterbury Ag Commission meeting will be held February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7 pm in the Community Center.

## **IX. Adjournment**

a. Motion to adjourn by Christina, seconded by Rob. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.