



**TOWN OF FRANKLIN
AGRICULTURE AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION [AgCon]**

**FRANKLIN TOWN HALL
7 Meetinghouse Hill Rd.
Franklin, CT 06254**

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, November 19, 2020
7:30 p.m.**

1. Call to Order: Chairperson Susan Allen called the meeting to order at 8:00 pm.

Members Present: Chairperson Susan Allen, Vice Chair Alan Holmberg, Gail Miller, Craig Staebner.
Alternate Member Present: Roland Mihok. **Alternate Members Absent:** Chester Rynaski.
Roland Mihok was seated as a voting member.

2. Recognition of Visitors and Initial Inquiries: N/A
3. Presentation/Discussion: Tanner Steeves & Staff from the Department of Environmental Protection on Conservation Management Plan for Wetlands Wildlife Lands.

There was consensus to table the presentation to the next meeting due to technical issues and not being able to connect virtually.

4. Approval of Minutes

- a. January 16, 2020:

MOTION #1 (11.19.20): made by Craig Staebner SECONDED BY Gail Miller that the Agriculture & Conservation Commission approve the Meeting Minutes of January 16, 2020 as presented
VOICE VOTE: UNANIMOUS; MOTION CARRIES

5. Call for Additional Agenda Item: N/A

6. Correspondence: N/A

7. Old Business:

- a. **CONSERVATION EASEMENT POLICY:** The Town of Franklin owns a conservation area off of Hide Park Development & Pleasure Hill of approximately 3.10 acres. Ag-Con is considering developing a policy related to inspections (site/walks) of property owned by the Town of Franklin designated as conservation areas. Review is continuing and this topic will be carried to the next meeting.
 - b. **APPOINTMENT LETTERS AGCON MEMBERS:** There is a need for the Board of Selectmen to update memberships. The First Selectman will be notified and this topic will be reviewed at the next meeting.

8. New Business:

- a. **AG-CON 2021 CALENDAR:** Tabled to the next meeting.

- b. **FARM BUREAU:** The State of CT Annual Meeting will be held via ZOOM. An update will be provided at the next meeting.
- c. **LAND CONSERVATION EFFORTS:** Susan Allan is continuing work on the Peltier Property. Currently there is an issue with the boundary agreement. Parties involved cannot come to an agreement about where the boundaries are. Research using history, surveys, and deeds is happening in an attempt to finalize boundary lines.
- d. **ADVERTISE FARM PILOT PROGRAM:** This program was highlighted in a recent Lebanon Life publication. Farmers Market Nutrition Program [FMNP] has been extended to November 23, 2020. Additionally, the Education & Agriculture Conservation Center Headquarters near the Air Line State Park Trail is interested in developing a co-op program linking health type programs with farming.
- e. **ADVERTISE LOCAL FARMS:** Lebanon Life advertised a listing of all local farms and the different types of products these farms sell to the public. Items include, but are not limited to, items such as eggs, hay, dairy products, and alpaca products.
- f. **SPRAGUE LAND PRESERVE:** Trail signs have not yet been posted.
- g. **NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION ACADEMY:** UCONN hosts this program. It matches high-school and college students with conservation agencies. The program asks for fingerprints, social security number, and birth certificates for participation. It is felt this may be a bit much just for persons wishing to volunteer. There was consensus Ag-con will not continue to participate.

9. General Comments: N/A

10. Public Comment: None

11. Adjournment:

MOTION #2 (11.19.20): made by made by Craig SECONDED BY Alan Holmberg that the Agriculture & Conservation Commission adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

VOICE VOTE: UNANIMOUS;

MOTION CARRIES

Respectfully submitted,
Sherry Pollard