



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

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

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

**Thursday, April 15, 2021
7:30 p.m.**

This meeting was held in virtual format with connections via live stream and video conferencing.

1. Call to Order: Chairperson Susan Allen called the meeting to order at 7:38 pm.

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

Roland Mihok was seated as a voting member for Alan Holmberg.

2. Recognition of Visitors and Initial Inquiries: Irene Morgan.

3. Approval of Minutes

- a. March 18, 2021:

MOTION #1 (04.15.21): made by Roland Mihok SECONDED BY Craig Staebner that the Agriculture & Conservation Commission approve the Meeting Minutes of March 18, 2021 - as presented

VOICE VOTE: UNANIMOUS;

MOTION CARRIES

4. Call for Additional Agenda Item: NONE

5. Correspondence: NONE

6. Old Business:

- a. **Conservation Easement Policy:** There has been discussion with the First Selectman about changing the current Conservation Easement Regulation/Policy. Susan Allen reviewed the same information as noted in the March 18, 2021 minutes.

- b. **Appointment Letters for AgCon members:** Susan Allen reviewed the same information as noted in the March 18, 2021 minutes.

Alan Holmberg entered the meeting at this point****

- c. **Advertise Local Farms:** There was discussion about AGCON developing a list of local farms along with some interesting facts and history that could be submitted for a Lebanon Life publication in support our Local Franklin Farmers.

8. New Business:

- a. **Open Space Fund:** AGCON should consider a review of the open space fund policy set by the Board of Selectmen. Susan Allen reviewed the same information as noted in the March 18, 2021 minutes.
- b. **Farm Bureau:** No meeting.
- c. **Land Conservation Efforts:** Susan Allen is in the process of writing grants in support of receiving funds for land conservation efforts / purchases. Some funds have been approved and should be on their way. Susan Allen has sent a letter inquiry to the Lord Foundations. This foundation is affiliated with the Norwich area.
- d. **Ash Landfill (Putnam with regards to Franklin):** Susan Allen has talked with officials in the Town of Putnam and it was noted there are extended permits for this operation at approximately 30 years.
- e. **Recent Land Transaction (abutting preserve's Robinson property):** Land & Sea Resources has purchased the old John Young property. The Robinson property is part of the Sprague Land Reserve with a beautiful look-out and it abuts the now Land & Sea Resources property.

9. General Comments:

10. Public Comment: N/A

11. Adjournment:

MOTION #2 (04.15.21): made by made by Craig Staebner Alan Holmberg SECONDED BY that the Agriculture & Conservation Commission adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

VOICE VOTE: UNANIMOUS;

MOTION CARRIES

Respectfully submitted,
Sherry Pollard