



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

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

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, December 17, 2020
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 7:30 pm.

Members Present: Chairperson Susan Allen, Vice Chair Alan Holmberg, Gail Miller

Members Absent: 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:

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PLAN – FRANKLIN SWAMP WMA: The Agriculture and Conservation Commission for the Town of Franklin, AgCon, recently received the Draft Copy of the Wildlife Management Plan for the Franklin Swamp WMA.

Susan Allen provided a letter, on behalf of AgCon, to the Franklin Swamp Wildlife Management Area, Eastern District Area Headquarters, Department of Environmental Protection, State of Connecticut, dated December 3, 2020, regarding their input and comments outlined as *General Comment and Observations, Specifics, and Mutually Beneficial section*.

AgCon supports the proposed plan and expresses gratitude for being included in this process and is looking forward to a continued symbiotic relationship with Franklin Swamp WMA.

Tanner Steeves, DEEP Wildlife Division Biologist, Ann Kilpatrick DEEP Wildlife Division Biologist, Kelly Kubik, DEEP Wildlife Division Waterfowl and Migratory Bird Biologist, and Dan Evans State of CT Forester were present. It was explained DEEP is trying to create a breeding area for American Woodcock at Franklin Swamp among other objectives. The draft report stemmed from DEEP revisiting various state-owned properties and Franklin Swamp needed an updated inventory of lands and species. Lastly, they responded to comments and concerns and points of interest outlined in the above mentioned AgCon letter.

4. Approval of Minutes

- a. November 19, 2020:

MOTION #1 (12.17.20): made by Alan Holmberg SECONDED BY Gail Miller that the Agriculture & Conservation Commission approve the Meeting Minutes of November 19, 2020 as amended:

1. Item 7c: Delete "Parties involved cannot come to an agreement about where the boundaries are" Add "An adjoining property has questioned a boundary."
2. 7f: Trail signs have been posted, instead it should read, " A preserve overview map is needed at the Mukluk cabin main parking"

VOICE VOTE: UNANIMOUS;

MOTION CARRIES

5. Call for Additional Agenda Item: NONE

6. Correspondence: NONE

7. Old Business:

- a. **CONSERVATION EASEMENT POLICY:** Tabled to a future meeting
- b. **APPOINTMENT LETTERS AGCON MEMBERS:** Tabled to a future meeting.

8. New Business:

a. **AG-CON 2021 CALENDAR:**

MOTION #2 (12.17.20): made by made by Gail Miller SECONDED BY Alan Holmberg that the Agriculture & Conservation Commission approve the AgCon 2021 Meeting Calendar as presented

VOICE VOTE: UNANIMOUS;

MOTION CARRIES

b. **FARM BUREAU:** Nothing new reported.

c. **LAND CONSERVATION EFFORTS:** Work on Peltier continues. Will apply for an additional funding source in case Army Corps of Engineers has too many obstacles.

9. General Comments: N/A

10. Public Comment: N/A

11. Adjournment:

MOTION #3 (12.17.20): made by made by Roland Mihok SECONDED BY Alan Holmberg that the Agriculture & Conservation Commission adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

VOICE VOTE: UNANIMOUS;

MOTION CARRIES

Respectfully submitted,
Sherry Pollard