

**TOWN OF FRANKLIN
AGRICULTURE AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION
FRANKLIN TOWN HALL
7 MEETINGHOUSE HILL RD.
FRANKLIN, CT 06254**

**MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, February 16, 2023, 7:30PM**

1. Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm.

Members Present: Vice Chairman Alan Holmberg, Gail Miller, Chairman Mike Miner, Roland Mihok, Craig Staebner

Alternate Member Present: Mackenzie Beckwith

2. Recognition of Visitors: Chairman Miner recognized Geoff McLean, Last Green Valley, Nicole Haggerty, Town Planner, Irene Mihok, Anne Staebner, Tom Miner, Alden Miner, and Heather Glidden

Mr. McLean provided a presentation and touched on the following topics:

- Fully shielded LED lights on highways helped reduce light pollution, no light above the 90-degree angle. Replace light fixtures that send light upwards into the sky. Install outdoor lighting only where it is needed, to reduce light pollution.
- Many animals require true dark night time conditions for successful hunting.
- Light pollution at night prevents being able to see the stars and Milky Way Galaxy.
- Outdoor lighting should enhance visibility, not produce glare, not allow light to cross other people's property.
- Unshielded lighting is a waste of energy, light up unnecessary areas and have higher costs.
- Use recessed fittings, buried fittings, shielded etc.
- LED lighting can cover roughly four times the mounting height. 50ft pole can light approx. 40,000 sqft.
- External lighting used to light external signage. Not using interior lighting to light exterior sign, I.E. Home Depot/McDonalds signs.
- Motion censored security lighting.
- Dark Sky approved lighting, Lowes has good selection of dark sky lighting fixtures.

3. Approval of Minutes – January 19, 2023:

MOTION 1 made by Roland Mihok **SECONDED BY** Craig Staebner that the Ag Con Commission approve January 19, 2023 Meeting Minutes – as amended:

FY 22-23 Budget:

1400.10 Advertising / Misc. \$400.00

1450.20 Open Space Fund - \$0.00

VOICE VOTE: UNANIMOUS;

MOTION CARRIES

4. Old Business

- a. Ag Commission recommendations for Zoning Regulations:

There will be a follow up with Geoff McLean about additional recommendations regarding light pollution and Zoning Regulations.

5. New Business:

a. Ag Commission social media platform update:

Mackenzie Beckwith will work on developing social-media platform for the Commission.

Mackenzie to begin social media Ag Commission page. February Topic is Maple Syrup.

6. Public Comment: None

7. Adjournment:

MOTION 2 made by Craig Staebner **SECONDED BY** Roland Mihok that AGCON adjourn at 9:10 PM.

VOICE VOTE: UNANIMOUS;

MOTION CARRIES

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Miner & Sherry Pollard