

Franklin Agriculture and Conservation Commission

FRANKLIN TOWN HALL
7 Meetinghouse Hill Rd.
Franklin, Connecticut

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, March 15, 2018
7:30 p.m.

1. Call to Order: Chairperson Susan Allen called the meeting to order at 7:36 p.m.

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

Mr. Mihok was seated as a voting member

2. Recognition of Visitors and Initial Inquiries:
3. Approval of Minutes

- a. **January 18, 2018:**

MOTION #1 (03-15-18): made by Alan Holmberg SECONDED BY Roland Mihok that the Agriculture & Conservation Commission approves the Minutes of January 18, 2018 as presented

VOICE VOTE: UNANIMOUS;

MOTION CARRIES

4. Call for Additional Agenda Items: None
5. Correspondence: None
6. Old Business:
 - a. **2018 CALENDAR:** Copy of approved 2018 Calendar was sent to Gail Miller for review. No comments received.
 - b. **BUDGET REQUEST:** Susan submitted request. Budget requests were acted on at the January 2018 meeting.
 - c. **CONSERVATION EFFORTS UPDATE:** Towns of Franklin and Sprague are working together to raise money for an option for acquisition of property related to the Bombaro property. Grant has been received from DEEP. In addition, \$40,000 has been raised towards a \$100,000 goal for this option.
 - d. **GRAPE SEED EXTRACTION TOUR:** Mike Tules, K-Best Representative, has been invited to come to an AG CON meeting sometime in the future to discuss current plans for this site and their ideas about agri-tourism.
7. New Business:
 - a. **FRANKLIN HIKE 4/22/18:** Franklin Congregational Church is preparing to recognize the 300th Anniversary. Historically, the Church basically started the first form of town government in this region. A group planning the event is has been gathering people and local organization to support and sponsor events for the celebration.

The Fire House hosted a bon fire, a maple syrup gathering was held at Blue Slope, and the Library hosted a Quilts of Valor segment. AG CON is in the processing of hosting a Franklin Hike event April 22, 2018 that will encompass a visit to the Mutluck Cabin, Beaver Lodge, Sandy Beach, a river viewing, and a walk along the River ridge Trail.

MOTION #2 (03-15-18): made by Alan Holmberg SECONDED BY Roland Mihok that the Agriculture & Conservation Commission approves an expenditure up to \$50 for the purchase of water, lanyards, buttons, and small fun educational items for the Franklin Hike - April 22, 2018

VOICE VOTE: UNANIMOUS;

MOTION CARRIES

- b. **FARM BUREAU:** Alan Holmberg commented on the Farm Bureau meeting held at Bozrah CT Elementary School. There was a large turnout. The speaker, a lawyer from Hartford CT, was present and provided a power point presentation. Discussion took place about pros and cons related to legal options that could be utilized if someone was interested in starting a business, such as, partnerships, sole proprietorship, and creating a limited liability corporation. Alan did comment that he would have liked to hear more farm specific information but overall enjoyed the presentation.
- c. **WCCC MEETING - 4/30/18:** Eric Hammerling, President of the Connecticut Forest Park Association will be advocating legislative changes to prohibit the State from selling public property without a due public hearing process.
- d. **CT TRAILS DAY: 6/2 & 6/3/18 (CT FOREST & PARK ASSOCIATION):** Mr. Eric Hammerling, President of the Connecticut Forest Park Association is putting this event together.
- e. **CLCC CONFERENCE 3/17/18 (CT LAND CONSERVATION COUNCIL):** The 2018 Connecticut Land Conservation Conference will be held Mar 17, 2018. Topic is Conservation Meets Development: The Role of Land Protection in Building Resilient Communities. For more information, Visit - <http://www.ctconservation.org/2018-Conference>
- f. **AGVOCATE:** Regional Meeting will be held 3/29/18. Topics of discussion will include, but not be limited to, Compost Heat Recovery as an additional source of energy.

9. **GENERAL COMMENTS:** None

10. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

11. **ADJOURNMENT:**

MOTION #3 (03-15-18): made by Roland Mihok SECONDED BY Alan Holmberg that the Agriculture & Conservation Commission adjourn

VOICE VOTE: UNANIMOUS;

MOTION CARRIES

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Pollard

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