

Town of Thompson

Agriculture Commission

815 Riverside Drive

North Grosvenordale, CT 06255

860-923-1852 (Office) ~ 860-923-9897 (Fax)

November 29 2023

Seney Room – Town Hall

In Attendance – Art Siegmund, Vern Butler, Tyra Penn, Dan Kelly, Valerie Clark, Earl Norman

Meeting called to order at 6:58pm.

Valerie moved to accept minutes, Dan Kelly 2nd

Minutes were approved unanimously.

Correspondence – Artie has it sent to email address – contact Town Clerk to update. Vern will get the change made.

No other correspondence.

Old Business

Ag Awareness and Grant –

Brochure updates – Dan provided Blackie’s updates to Vern, Valerie will email Lynn and Marcia’s to Vern.

There is money in the EDC budget for the brochure – about \$4k available for printing and publications. Couple of grant opportunities that could be pursued – Farm Credit East and also Eastern Region Tourism District. 1-1 Cash match for things that promote tourism in the Eastern Region. Stronger if more diverse, so adding other towns would help get more money. Might top out at \$10k. ERTD deadline 1/15/2024, Farm Credit is rolling quarter. ERTD would have to commit by 6/15/2024.

Might have to call an earlier special Ag meeting to make decisions.

Tyra can assist in January with quotes.

Earl asks if the other towns have their own brochures as well? Possible additional exposure and benefit for them if not.

Community Day – we did not participate due to the rain date and it was too wet to have a maze.

65 Main – 2 workshops have been held – Overview was first, then 2nd was the planning game with public input. Next is 12/20 6-8pm permaculture presentation. 2nd – create and build a real vo-ag program to use the facility for the high school. Practical elements was the focus at the “adult” group game. High quality input from the public and the partners.

New Business –

Nomination of Officers

Art Siegmund nominates Vern Butler as Chairman and Randy Blackmer as Vice Chairman, Valerie seconds Vern, Vern seconds Blackie, Vern nominates Valerie Clark as Secretary, Artie seconds.

2024 Meeting schedule:

1/31

5/29

7/31 – Tyra can't let us in will be on vacation

10/30- Tyra will be on vacation this week also.

Valerie motions to accept, Vern seconds. All in favor.

Meeting dates must be in by Dec 1st every year.

Announcements – Vern has access to the website and will post items.

Citizen's Comments – Marcia asks if 65 Main is under the Ag Commission. Tyra responds it has intersections and interest with several commissions, including Ag. Also Board of Education, Mill Sites Redevelopment Advisory Committee, but under the Planning Department.

HazMat at 65 Main is 100% complete, has a brand new roof and is down to the studs inside.

Next meeting agenda – election of Officers, talk again about Grant, send brochure updates/corrections to Vern. Vern will let us know if we need a special meeting before 1/31. Add Community Day so we do something different than years past. Would like to get a head start early.

Artie moves to adjourn.

