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Chester, Clinton, Cromwell,
Deep River, Durham, East Haddam,
East Hampton, Essex, Haddam,
Killingworth, Lyme, Middlefield,
Middletown, Old Lyme,
Old Saybrook, Portland, Westbrook

LOWER CONNECTICUT RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL AGRICULTURE COUNCIL

September 15, 2016

Members:

Chester: Bev Tarpill
Clinton: Rich Martin
Cromwell: John Whitney
Deep River: Ron Larsen
Durham: Warren Herzig
East Haddam:
East Hampton: Shelia Mullen
Essex: -----
Haddam: John Halfinger
Killingworth: Walter Adametz
Lyme: Bill Farrell
Middlefield:
Middletown: Gabe Russo
Old Lyme:
Old Saybrook: -----
Portland:
Westbrook: Bonnie Hall

Staff:

River COG: Janice Ehle/Meyer,

Guests:

Alan Fenrow
Joseph Fydenkevez
Jay Tulin
Amanda Fargo-Johnson

Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 pm by Walter Adametz at the River COG office.

1) Approval of Minutes

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the RAC meeting, pending a change to add Bonnie Hall as present at the last meeting, on June 16, 2016 by Bonnie Hall and seconded by Warren Herzig. Gabe Russo abstained from voting, all others approved.

2) Hops discussion

Alan Fenrow and Joseph Fydenkevez talked about the hops that they are growing. They passed out some information about growing hops. They talked about fresh vs. dried hops, growing hops hydroponically, and leasing land. A conversation followed.

3) CT Farm Energy - Amanda Fargo Johnson

Amanda presented the CT Farm Energy program with a power point presentation. There were lots of questions and discussions.

4) Middletown proposal to change Conservation Commission

Jay Tulin, a Middletown resident, came to the meeting to discuss Middletown changing the Conservation Commission to be combined Conservation and Agriculture Commission. A discussion followed. Preserving farmland was also discussed. A recommendation from RAC was to not combine the Conservation and Agriculture Commissions but to keep them separate.

5) Ag Viability

Janice explained that the River COG had been notified that the Agriculture Viability grant was approved and that work could start on the new projects. A blog has been added to the existing website. A question was asked on how many hits the site has and how the brochures were accepted. Public Access TV will be looked into as a source for getting the website publicized.

Ideas for the conference or meetings were discussed.

6) Old Business

7) New Business

A. Ron Larsen said that towns don't know enough about the agriculture website and proposed that Public Access TV would be a good place to get information out. Ron also suggested that the RAC do a dinner or make the food for a River COG meeting to promote local farming and promote PA 490.

8) Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 pm.

The next meeting will be on October 20, 2016 at the River COG office at 7:00pm.

Jess Stone, you are the lucky member to bring snacks to the next meeting.