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[www.rivercog.org](http://www.rivercog.org)

Chester, Clinton, Cromwell,  
Deep River, Durham, East Haddam,  
East Hampton, Essex, Haddam, Kill-  
ingworth, Lyme, Middlefield, Mid-  
dletown, Old Lyme,  
Old Saybrook, Portland, Westbrook

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## LOWER CONNECTICUT RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL AGRICULTURE COUNCIL

August 18, 2022

### Members:

Chester: Luc Bouffard  
Clinton: Richard Martin  
Cromwell:  
Deep River  
Durham: Warren Herzig  
East Haddam:  
East Hampton: -----  
Essex: -----  
Haddam: John Halfinger  
Killingworth: Walter Adametz  
Lyme: Bill Farrell  
Middlefield:  
Middletown:  
Old Lyme:  
Old Saybrook:  
Portland: Alan Fenrow  
Westbrook: -----

### Staff:

Janice Ehle/Meyer

### Guests:

No guests.

### Meeting

The meeting was a Zoom call.

### 1) Approval of Minutes

The meeting was called to order by John Halfinger at 7:02. A motion was made by Walter Adametz and seconded by Alan Fenrow to accept the minutes from the June 16, 2022, meeting. Motion approved.

## **2) Public Comments**

No public comments.

## **3) On-line sales for local farmers**

A. Janice talked with the grantees for the CERCA grant to ask if it was acceptable to have a single source for the grant, they said that it was ok. The single source will be HealthyPlanEat with Rosemary Osfeld.

B. The focus will be to support our local farmers and an incentive to get more of the local farmers on the website.

C. Marketing will be another aspect with possibly more hubs in the area.

D. Classes offering website design to farmers.

E. One comment was that the platform is top-notch and will be supported by local farmers.

## **4) Website –**

A. John said that he has a neighbor who may want to be on the RAC website. That farmer also may be interested in using the no-till equipment.

## **5) Farm Viability Grant**

A. There was a conversation about not using the total amount of the grant and what the results would be for that. Buy a trailer, buy some replacement parts, give some of the money back?

B. Janice asked for timesheets to be sent to her so that a mid-grant report could be made.

C. Janice will send out the new revised contract naming the host as to where the equipment will be housed. There was a conversation about the equipment be sheltered and secure. Luc will check on the Chester Garage for storage.

D. Luc checked with local farmers to use the drill.

E. The mapping attachments were sent to the committee. Janice suggesting using RiverCOG mapping to find some new farmland. The town maps will be sent to each representative and reviewed at RiverCOG for possible new land to be farmed. A suggestion was made to use town accessor maps to help to see who owns parcels.

F. Richard Martin is getting 3 quotes for a trailer.

## **6) Old Business**

Warren Herzig talked about the Durham Ag Commission talking about the farm store regulations. Planning and Zoning will be working on it. A zoning amendment could be a possibility which would need a public hearing. Economic development, Board of Selectmen etc. may be asked to attend to help support agriculture at a meeting.

**7) New Business**

A. Bill asked if anyone had listened to the farm bureau interview on NPR and the farmer mental health crisis, “Where We Live - Meet BIPOC farmers in the Northeast and learn why many farmers silently struggle with mental health”. A discussion followed concerning farmers needing to make money, about the right to repair, squeezing the market and being squeezed.

**8) Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:53pm. A motion was made by Walter Adametz and Alan Fenrow seconded by. Motion passed unanimously.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, September 15, 2022, at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Janice Ehle/Meyer