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

LOWER CONNECTICUT RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL AGRICULTURE COUNCIL

June 16, 2022

Members:

Chester:
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: Rebecca Isaacson
Old Lyme:
Old Saybrook: Kristy Benson
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 Warren Herzig to accept the minutes from the May 19, 2022, meeting. Richard Martin asked that his name be corrected from Martino to Martin and com-

ments from the Commissioner are,"he liked the idea of sharring equipment..." not sheriffs equipment. The changes will be made. A vote was taken with the changes. Motion approved.

2) **Public Comments**

No public comments.

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

A. Janice talked about the conversation with Rosemary Osfeld and what is the best way is to help local farmers on her site. Kristy said that she talked with Rosemary who has a bunch of ideas on how she needs help. Kristy suggested that we have another meeting with Rosemary to find out her suggestions on how best to help her.

B. A question was asked if aligning ourselves with a private business is part of our mission? Response was that Rosemary's site is what we were looking to have. Rosemary's site is already up and running. A suggestion was made to have another conversation with Rosemary to explain our concerns and hear her suggestions.

C. A suggestion was to make whatever we are going to be offering to all of the local farmers.

D. Janice said that part of the monies will be going to offering help on websites and website design to all farmers.

4) **Website** – If there is a new farm that would like to be on our website, please let me know

A. Janice said that she is waiting to hear back from Luc Bouffard for their website information.

B. Walter Adametz said that "Down Lane Farm" is going to contact RiverCOG to be included on the website.

C. John Halfinger may have a neighbor who would like to be included, Dream Meadow.

D. Janice said that Sandra Childress has offered to do articles on "Featured Farmers" for the website. If any farmers want free advertising, contact Janice.

5) **Farm Viability Grant**

Time Sheet

Calendar

Application

Flyer and Poster

Demonstration Day

A. John Halfinger said that all the equipment has arrived in Higganum. John asked that all members come to help with the Demo Day.

B. A question was asked if someone to help with parking is needed.

C. RAC members are to come at 11:00 to help get organized. All should be organized at 11:30 in case some people come early.

D. Kristy has tents and tables to bring. She was asked to bring all that she has.

- E. Rebecca asked if parking signs were needed?
- F. Janice will bring containers for iced tea. Alan is bringing ice.
- G. Someone is needed to monitor the check in table to organize speakers.
- H. Janice has metal chairs.
- I. Cookies are coming – 2 trays.
- J. Janice will bring veggies for veggie trays.
- K. Janice has paper products and application forms.
- L. Janice will have the knowyourfarmers.org post cards available.
- M. Janice shared the new “No-till Equipment” addition to the knowyourfarmers.org website. It includes program explanation, info on all equipment, and application.
- N. Questions were asked if there needs to be more information on legal liability. Replacement cost should be included for general liability. There was a discussion about legal responsibility of a contract. Should replacement cost of the piece of equipment be covered?
- O. A question was asked if a lawyer should look at the application? A question was asked if it will be the contract too? What happens if there are disputes in the contract? Should there be something releasing anyone from liability is anything happens. Kristy has some info that she will sent that she uses at her town farmers market. A hold harmless agreement.
- P. Janice said that she will have RiverCOG lawyer look at the application.
- Q. A check list of maintenance needs to be made.
- R. There should be something that says that the equipment should stay in the region.
- S. The flyers and posters will be coming after the event to be distributed.
- T. Are we covered by Directors and Officers policy? A discussion followed.
- U. Rebecca was asked how to get students involved in the program. Soil tests, soil health help to make measurements now and at the end of the project. Students could help get samples and send them to UConn.
- V. How to get students more involved with meetings.

6) Old Business

No old business.

7) New Business

- A. Warren said the Durham’s Agriculture Commission is working on regulations for farm stands vs. farm stores. Warren said that there are farm stores that offer more than what they grow, additional products. What do other towns have for Farm Stand regulations?
- B. Walter said that there are farm stands in Killingworth that offer other products and are all inclusive under farm stands. Walter suggested that striking the statement about all products need to be produced on the farm and adding something about an accessory use of an existing farm. Once the farm ceases to exist, the accessory use will cease to exist.
- C. John Halfinger said that he has seen farm regulations be taken advantage of. Some type of definition needs to be included.

D. Lyme is still working on their agriculture regulations.

E. There was a discussion about liabilities and risks of having people come on to a farm and the difficulties of getting insurance and what the future may bring.

F. There was a discussion about farmers being exempt from a diesel tax.

8) Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:32 pm. A motion was made by Alan Fenrow and seconded by Walter Adametz. Motion passed unanimously.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, July 21, 2022, at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Janice Ehle/Meyer

Draft