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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

September 15, 2022

Members:

Chester: Luc Bouffard
Clinton: Richard Martin
Cromwell:
Deep River
Durham: Warren Herzig
East Haddam:
East Hampton: -----
Essex: -----
Haddam:
Killingworth:
Lyme:
Middlefield:
Middletown: Rebecca Isaacson
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 Warren Herzig at 7:00. A motion was made by Alan Fenrow and seconded by Luc Bouffard to accept the minutes from the August 18, 2022, meeting. Motion approved.

2) Public Comments

No public comments.

3) On-line sales for local farmers

A. Janice talked getting approval to use Healthy PlanEat as a sole source for the grant. Rosemary has sent some prices for her costs on the grant. That will primarily be additional marketing that she will do for the region. A vote at the next RiverCOG meeting will be done to enter a contract with Healthy PlanEat. There is about \$40,000 available for the grant.

B. The other part of the grant will be for local farmers to work with RiverCOG to get ideas on how to design a good website.

4) Website –

A. The information for the no-till equipment has been updated with the application and the calendar. The farmers will need a Gmail account to access the calendar.

5) Farm Viability Grant

A. NT equipment use – John Halfinger has used the drill and another farmer is applying to use the drill, Josh Miller from Durham. Josh is in the process of filling out the insurance information and the application.

B. A request for representatives to market the opportunity to use the NT equipment to farmers in their town. A stop-by may be better than just sending an email.

C. Richard Martin is working on getting three quotes for a trailer to pull the drill and the transplanter. The prices of the two trailer quotes are the same manufacturer. Richard has two quotes and is working on the third quote. Richard has requested that the trailer have rails. Richard is learning that the trailer has stake pockets on the sides but by adding the stakes there will not be enough width for the drill. The drill is 8'-2" and the trailer width with the stakes will be at most about 8'-1". There was a conversation about having a rail welded onto the outside of the sides of the trailer and repainting the sides.

D. A third quote is taking some time to get. There was a conversation about where else a trailer could be purchased. Buying a used trailer was discussed but they are hard to find.

E. Time Sheets – Janice asked everyone to send in their time sheets for time spend on the grant. A report needs to be done for DoA.

F. Mapping – Janice talked about the possibility of getting new land farmed. There are some new maps with soil types and classifications of land use. Janice would like to meet with representatives to review these maps. An email will be sent out.

6) Old Business

A. Warren Herzig talked about the Durham Ag Commission talking about the farm store regulations. Warren said that Durham's Agriculture Committee has submitted an application to Planning and Zoning. A public hearing is scheduled for October 19th. The application has been sent to the Economic Development Commission to ask for their support.

B. There was a conversation about who the new Selectman in Durham is. The new Selectman is George Eames. He is a lifetime town resident, civic minded. He owns a plastic box manufacturing company. He has been very supportive of giving tax exemptions to farmers.

7) New Business

A. Janice talked about a grant the RiverCOG has received concerning economic development in the region. She would like to schedule a meeting with the Consultant to get ideas from RAC on what they would propose. An email will be sent out for a proposed meeting date.

8) Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:37pm. A motion was made by Luc Bouffard and seconded by Rebecca Isaacson. Motion passed unanimously.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, October 20, 2022, at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Janice Ehle/Meyer