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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

November 17, 2022

Members:

Chester:
Clinton: Richard Martin
Cromwell:
Deep River Ron Larson
Durham:
East Haddam:
East Hampton: -----
Essex: -----
Haddam: John Halfinger
Killingworth: Walter Adametz
Lyme:
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 7:21. A motion was made by Walter Adametz and seconded by John Halfinger to accept the minutes from the October 20, 2022, meeting. Motion approved.

2) Public Comments

No public comments.

3) RAC Board

We are in need of 8 Representatives for the RAC.

Cromwell
East Haddam
East Hampton
Essex
Lyme
Middlefield
Old Lyme
Westbrook

1. Rebecca suggested Ray of Light from East Haddam. Jess Stone will also be contacted for ideas from the East Haddam Agriculture Commission.
2. Tiffany Farm was also a suggestion for Lyme.
3. There was a discussion about why people are leaving the RAC
 - A suggestion was made to have meetings every other month.
 - Maybe have other meeting issues other than no-till
 - Have in person meetings as an option or in person every other month.
 - There are new grants available for organizations, Climate Smart Farming and Forestry.
4. AgriTech International – liquid calcium fertilizer (833) 247- 4832/ (515) 508-1602
Tim Cook, see if someone can join us for the Dec./Jan. RAC meeting.
5. There was a discussion about sewer sludge.
6. A suggestion was made to limit the meeting to the agenda.

4) On-line sales for local farms

Healthy PlanEat

Healthy PlanEat has looked over the contract and RiverCOG's lawyer is now looking at the contract.

5) Website –

Janice talked about the featured farmer and asked if there are more farmers who want to be featured. There was a discussion about what the increase of sales due to the article. Janice will contact a featured farmer and ask them.

6) Farm Viability Grant

1. The trailer has been ordered and will arrive in 7 to 10 weeks.
2. Demo Day on March 2nd with speakers from UConn, NRCS, NOFA etc.

7) Durham Ag Commission

Is there a way for farmers to be helped? The application for a farm store was denied, there was a discussion. Durham has an Ag Commission, and it was suggested that RAC wait to hear from them if they would like to have help.

8) Local farm composting project

1. Janice explained that she had talked with Baylee to possibly do a regional composting project. A discussion followed concerning digesters.

9) Ct River Coastal Conservation District award

1. John Halfinger and Janice accepted the award at the ceremony.
2. There are large grants available and are being looked into for composting.

7) Old Business

1. Salem letter was sent for the public hearing from RAC.
2. There was a letter from a farmer in Lebanon who said that he couldn't sell lumber unless it was zoned commercial. There was a discussion about a farmer being able to cut a tree down, keep the log and sell the log. It is no difference than selling firewood. Farmers have a right to sell their products.

8) New Business

1. Janice said that she was contacted by Old Saybrook for comments from the RAC about using the kitchen at the Senior Center for a commercial kitchen. The comments were that it was a good idea to offer that for producing value added products. There was a discussion about having a meat processing facility. The farmers would be interested in the pricing.

9) Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at

9:14 pm. A motion was made by Walter Adametz and seconded by Ron Larson. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Janice Ehle/Meyer

Draft