



145 Dennison Road
Essex, CT 06426
(860) 581-8554
(860) 581-8543 (FAX)
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

LOWER CONNECTICUT RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL AGRICULTURE COUNCIL

June 15, 2023

Members:

Chester:
Clinton: Richard Martin
Cromwell:
Deep River Ron Larson
Durham: Warren Herzig
East Haddam:
East Hampton: -----
Essex: -----
Haddam: John Halfinger
Killingworth: Walter Adametz
Lyme:
Middlefield:
Middletown:
Old Lyme:
Old Saybrook:
Portland:
Westbrook: -----

Staff:

Janice EhleMeyer

Guests:

Rosemary Ostfeld

Meeting

The meeting was in person and a Zoom call.

1) Approval of Minutes

The meeting started at 7:04 by John Halfinger. No vote was made to approve the minutes from the May 18, 2023. The minutes will be voted on at the September meeting.

2) Public Comments/Presentations

- Rosemary Ostfeld - Healthy PlanEat

A. Rosemary Ostfeld talked about onboarding local farms on her site. There are now 7 farms from the RiverCOG region.

B. Rosemary talked about a “passport” that she is designing. Rosemary shared her screen to show the proposed passport.

C. Rosemary talked about the farm event on July 23, 2023 from 10 – 2 at the Wadsworth Museum. The event will be a chance for people to meet the farmers from Healthy PlanEat. There will be demonstrations too.

D. Janice talked about the grant and money still available in the grant for farmer’s outreach.

E. Suggestions for the best outreach for farmers is email, go to a farm, another suggestion was to go to farmers markets and see which farms sell at farmers markets, Rosemary also offered to do a workshop to help farmers with questions.

3) RAC Board

Need more Board members!!

Cromwell

East Haddam – Kristy will contact some farmers.

East Hampton

Essex

Lyme – Jess said that she will contact a farmer

Middlefield

Old Lyme

Westbrook

Janice will contact regional farms that are new to Healthy PlanEat.

4) Website

A. site sessions – 40 - down 73%

B. Unique visitors – 35 - down 73%

C. Avg. session duration – 3m 36s - down 33%

D. A suggestion was made to contact some of the farms that are on Healthy PlanEat in our region and ask them if they would like to be “Farmer of the Month”

5) Farm Viability Grant

A. The three quotes for side rails for the trailer (see attached quotes).

1. Kahn Tractor & Equipment

2. K&J Welding

3. Welding Works

After a discussion, a motion was made by Richard Martin to select K & J Welding for the project. The price is \$1,400 and will take approximately 1 to 2 weeks. The motion was seconded by Walter Adametz. The vote was unanimous for K&J Welding.

Richard said that he has paint for the inside of the rails (yellow) and outside (Black).

7) Zoning amendment

A. Middlefield agriculture

Janice will contact Middlefield to get information about the public hearing.

8) Old Business –

A. Warren Herzig spoke about the Durham farm and tack store regulations. Warren was not sure if P&Z had formalized and modified the regulations which would require a public hearing. The Durham Agriculture Commission is concerned with the results.

B. Warren also talked about Cecarellis Field Day event. Warren said that it was a great event with about 75 people.

9) New Business –

A. Durham Farmers market needs more vegetable vendors. Warren asked for names of market masters. There was a discussion about more markets than farmers. There was also a discussion about fresh local food. The farms in RiverCOG region are not suited for large veggie farms.

B. A suggestion was to add an acreage meter on the trailer to read how many miles it has gone. A suggestion was made to put on a hubometer. Walter will do research and send some versions of hubometers.

C. Janice talked about the RAC doing model agriculture regulations for the region for P&Zs to work from. The discussion was that the project will be big and could be confrontational, more regulations, more trouble. The idea of doing something to keep in-house that RAC can work from was suggested but not to send out to P&Z's for towns.

D. A suggestion was made to help the State of CT to work on the State PoCD for agriculture. Janice will contact Brian Hurlburt to ask him about it and to see where the State is in the process. After talking with Bran, maybe he can come to a RAC meeting.

E. Co-op in Litchfield has a drill and goes out to farms with their drill. New Milford also has a drill. Check with them on how their programs are going.

10) Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:44.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, **September** 14, 2023, at 7:00 pm. There will not be an August meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Janice Ehle/Meyer