



Lebanon Conservation and Agriculture Commission
Regular Meeting, 4/1/19
Lebanon Town Hall, 579 Exeter Road
Regular Meeting Minutes

Members present: Marc Lang (Chair), Jan Fitter (Secretary), Emery Gluck, Ethan Stearns, Jon Slate, Keith LaPorte, Chris Condit (Alt.), and Michael Wolf (Student Representative)
Absent: Alton Blodgett, Andrew Holley (Alt.), and Paul Trubey (Alt.)
Also present: Town Planner Philip Chester

Marc Lang called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m.

Brenda Wilde, Lyman Memorial High School Agriculture Science teacher introduced seven (7) students from the Ag. Science program who conducted a sketch about farmer suicide. The sketch included statistics, causes, and needs of farmers related to income, insurance, and obstacles for mental health access.

The Commission discussed removal of a large ash tree in front of Town Hall. Marc Lang provided members with a copy of CGS Sec. 23-59 regarding Tree Wardens and highlighted the section that reads "unless the condition of a tree constitutes an immediate public hazard, the tree warden shall, at least ten days before such removal or pruning, post on each tree a suitable notice stating the tree warden's intention to remove such tree." The Commission respectfully requests that in the future the Tree Warden follow State Statute.

In light of above, the Commission reconsidered their recommended site selection for planting a White Oak tree in commemoration of 1919 state legislation that required those practicing arboriculture for hire pass a test and become a Connecticut Licensed Arborist. All 169 CT towns will be given a tree in the fall by Connecticut Tree Protective Association. The Commission viewed the area in front of Town Hall where the ash tree was removed.

Motion made by Emery Gluck to recommend to the Board of Selectmen that the new White Oak Tree be planted adjacent to the spot of the removed ash tree in front of Town Hall. Motion seconded by Marc Lang and unanimously approved.

The Commission reviewed a farmland preservation application from Diana Dearborn, 150 Exeter Road, and rated the application according to the Farmland Preservation Rating System. The property rated 20 out of 27.

Motion made by Jon Slate to recommend to the Board of Selectmen that farmland preservation appraisals be conducted for 90 acres at 150 Exeter Road. Motion seconded by Ethan Stearns and unanimously approved.

Mr. Chester updated the Commission on the Wolf and Geer farmland preservation projects and the 2019 resident survey. Mr. Lang requested that a letter be sent to Geoff Picard and his Ag. Science students to thank them for cleaning up the Five Mile Rock Trail.

Motion made by Ethan Stearns to approve the April 1, 2019 meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Jan Fitter and unanimously approved.

The Commission adjourned at 5:57 p.m. The next regular Commission meeting is scheduled for June 3, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,
Philip Chester, AICP
May 14, 2019