

TOWN OF CHATHAM
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

☐ **COMMITTEE: Chatham Agricultural Partnership**

☐ **MEETING CHAIR: Henry Corsun**

☐ **DATE: 03-02-2021**

☐ **TIME: 7:00 PM**

☐ **LOCATION: Virtual via Zoom**

☐ **COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Donal Collins, Mary Gail Biebel, Gail Day, Tom Clark, Donna Staron, Henry Corsun, Courtney McDonnell**

☐ **COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Tom Crowell, Will Denner, Eric Ooms**

☐ **OTHERS PRESENT: Rick Werwaiss, Angus Eaton, Deborah Conrad**

☐ **CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM by Henry Corsun.

☐ **APPROVAL OF PAST MINUTES:** Motion to approve the February 2021 meeting minutes as written, made by Mr. Collins, seconded by Ms. Biebel, all in favor, motion carried

☐ **GUEST SPEAKER/PRESENTATION:** Angus Eaton and Deborah Conrad (members of Climate Smart Committee) / Initial Draft Solar Law

☐ **AGENDA/DISCUSSIONS:**

1. Communications group met on 2/24/21. Present at the meeting were Tom Crowell, Mary Gail Biebel, Donal Collins and Henry Corsun. The group brainstormed ideas for community outreach and discussed goals for these materials. Ms Biebel reported on a grant written to request funds from the Greener Pastures Fund to pay for the design, layout and printing of marketing materials related to local agriculture. A resolution was passed by the town board to update the essential guide to agriculture. Ms Biebel proposed to ask the Columbia Paper if they would be interested in a column about local farming and farms.

2. Discussed farm inventory and how best to keep this list updated and current. It was proposed that CAP engages with Dan Horst (Town Assessor) to review his list of parcels that have Ag tax exemptions and also agricultural rented land.

3. Ms. Biebel reported that the thirteenth annual Farm Film Festival will be virtual again this year. The theme is “Sustainability Around the Globe.” All nine short films will be available for viewing March 15th through March 21st on the CAP Youtube channel. Virtual screening is open to the public at no charge, but registration is required to gain access. The overall total length of the films is approximately 70 minutes. There will be a panel on Sunday March 21st at 4:00. The panel will be moderated by Daniel Franck, Ph.D University of California (Berkeley), botanist and Director of Science Curriculum at the Core Knowledge Foundation. Panelists include Claudia Kenney of Little Seed Gardens, John Ng of Hudson Valley Fisheries, and Troy Weldy of Columbia Land Conservancy. The Festival is sponsored by the Columbia Land Conservancy, CAP, and the Crandell Theatre. It also has generous support from MetzWood Insurance and the Hudson River Bank & Trust Foundation.

4. Angus Eaton and Deborah Conrad (members of Climate Smart Committee) presented the Initial Draft Solar Law. See attached presentation.

5. Discussion of the Community Preservation fund. Ms Beibel presented fundamental knowledge of fund. See attached presentation. Troy Weldy of the Columbia Land Conservancy will attend CAP’s next meeting to further explain and answer questions.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 4/6/21 at 7:00 PM (virtual)

ADJOURNMENT: 8:35 PM Motion to adjourn the meeting, made by Mr. Collins, seconded by Ms. Biebel, all in favor, motion carried

Respectfully Submitted By,

Courtney McDonnell April 5, 2021