



CONNECTICUT

RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT

1066 Saybrook Road

Haddam, Connecticut 06438

*John Guszowski, President
Judy Rondeau, Vice President
Treasurer, Justin LaFountain
Margot Burns, Secretary*

**Meeting Minutes
Tuesday 10/22/19, 12:30 – 2:30
Call In Meeting**

Board Members in Attendance: John Guskowski, Margot Burns, Judy Rondeau, Lynne Pike DiSanto, Justin LaFountain, Jim Costello, Rebecca Andreucci, Rosa Browne, Chris Sullivan, Joanna Shapiro

Board Members not in Attendance: Matt Fulda, Mark Nielsen, Jim Larkin, Mark Goetz, Jim Sipperly, Lois Bruinooge, Aaron Budris, Rick Huntley

Other: Jeanne Davies; Amanda Fargo-Johnson, Lillian Ruez

John Guskowski called the meeting to order at 12:32pm and noted that there was a quorum.

Secretary's Report:

Discussion: Correct spelling of Lillian Ruez's name (9/17/19 minutes) and 2 seconded by's, add Tour de Farms information.

Motion: To approve the minutes 6/13/19 and 9/17/19 as amended.

Motion made by: Lynne Pike DiSanto

Seconded by: Judy Rondeau

Voted: Motion passed. Chris Sullivan abstained from both and Rosa for September minutes.

President's Report:

John reported that the new committee structure will begin in January. Asked members in attendance to review and comment on assignments. He would like to have everyone start thinking about continuity planning in regards to diversity. Please submit names of possible new board members before November meeting. How can RC&D increase equity and diversity, and volunteers. Do we need to look at our bylaws and staff policies? Rosa agreed to work with Jeanne on solutions.

Jeanne sent a power point and report to be shared at the Mid Atlantic Conference.

(Joanna Shapiro joined the call at 12:46)

Discussed at the last executive meeting was the elevation of Amanda to the position of Deputy Director. Salary will be discussed at annual review. Jeanne needs to create job descriptions for staff positions.

Motion: To designate Amanda as Deputy Director.

Motion made by: Lynne Pike DiSanto

Seconded by: Rosa Browne

Voted: Motion approved unanimously.

(Lillian Ruez joined at 12:54)

Treasurer's Report:

The move to Liberty bank is in progress. Jim Marcum (sp?) will be our local adviser. Jeanne and Jane are working with accountants on year end reports.

Partner Reports:

Council on Soil and Water – There will be a stakeholder meeting at the DeKoven House concerning drafting of the language of the Soil Health Legislation. Their next meeting will be Nov. 6th.

Connecticut River Coastal Conservation District – Their annual meeting will be Nov. 2nd at Lyman Orchards.

Southwest Conservation District – Office is located at the USDA facility in Hamden.

Working Land Alliance is interested in having an RC&D representative on their board. They would like Amanda. They meet at the LOB and at the Farm Bureau Office. RC&D no longer has a representative – would they like to provide a representative for RC&D?

Agricultural Programs:

There is a possibility to work on a Farm Viability Grant with the Town of Lebanon. Lebanon is interested in planning for farm succession. Project budget would be approximately \$48,000 with a match of \$40,000. A consultant would be hired to create a plan with implementable steps.

Motion: To have Jeanne investigate and pursue if applicable grant opportunity with the Town of Lebanon.

Motion made by: Lynne Pike DiSanto

Seconded by: Jim Costello

Voted: Unanimously

Environmental Programs Update:

The ERT has developed a new ERT format.

Bloomfield – Complete

Durham – Waiting for 2 reports, draft to go to Conservation commission.

Airline Trail Contract – The contract is in and staff will be meeting with DEEP to layout process and what resources DEEP can provide.

Hydrilla Survey – Survey is complete and report and maps are forthcoming. Gateway has been invoiced and will invoice Eightmile.

Andover – Working with town on land conservation donations which abut or are near by 2 town owned parcels.

Bristol – Would like to work on best management principles for town park.

Agricultural Update:

- a. CT Farm Energy & CPTV Sponsorship
- b. REDA Projects
- c. Greater New Haven Regional Agriculture Initiative
- d. Livestock Guide
- e. Soil Health Initiatives and CSWC Committee
- f. Field Day
- g. USDA Compliance Review
- h. Scheduling Winter Farm Energy

Jeanne touched on Access to AG project and the AG GIS needs assessment project.

CACEE Update:

Will explore as part of Lebanon Ag Viability Grant.

Next in person meeting will be in Nov. or Dec. Looking into celebrating 50th anniversary of the ERT program and an ag program presentation.

Motion: To adjourn at 1:47.

Made by: Jim Costello

Seconded by: Rosa Browne

Voted: Unanimously

Respectfully submitted,
Margot Burns, Secretary