

ASHFORD AGRICULTURE COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, July 17, 2024

7:30 p.m.

Town Hall Room 112

Minutes

1. Call to Order

- a. Meeting called to order at 7:31pm
- b. Luther Brauch, Meg Brauch, Doug Jenne, Nick Weinstock in attendance

2. Seating of Alternates

- a. Meg Brauch seated for Joe Murphy

3. Approval of Minutes

- a. N. Weinstock moves to approve the May 15, 2024 minutes as presented, D. Jenne seconds. Passed unanimously

4. Hear from Public

- a. None

5. Communications

- a. Informal communication from PZC that the POCD information has been received. AAC was one of the first advisory entities to complete this task.

6. Chairman's briefing

- a. Discussion of upcoming CT Farm Bureau and UConn Extension events

7. Unfinished Business:

- a. Tax Abatements
 - i. The BOS have begun examining the recommendations made by the AAC back in January. The Tax Assessors office has generated reports showing the impact to the Town and the farms. The Statute was amended effective in June, so the amounts that farms are eligible to be exempted has increased.
 - ii. Discussion regarding the changes and how it may impact farms in the community. Consensus is that these changes are good for agriculture in Ashford and across the State.
 - iii. D. Jenne moves to table the previous recommendations to the BOS on tax abatement revisions. M. Brauch seconds, passed unanimously.
 - iv. N. Weinstock moves that the Ashford Agriculture Commission recommend to the Ashford Board of Selectmen that the Town adopt CGS Section 12-91 as amended by HB5524, specifically to include the adjustment in exemption values for sections (b) and (c). D. Jenne seconds, passed unanimously.

8. New Business:

- a. None

9. Round table discussion

10. Action item assignments

11. Adjourn

- a. M. Brauch moves to adjourn at 8:47, N. Weinstock seconds. Passed unanimously.

Luther Brauch

Chairman

Ashford Agriculture Commission