

Minutes Durham Agriculture Commission  
June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026, 7:00 pm Town Hall 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

Meeting called to order by Chairman Randy McLean at 7:05 pm.

Roll call: Randy Mclean, Bob Miller(absent), Jessica Augur, Melissa Dziurgot(absent), Susan Cummings, Hillary Miller, Warren Herzig, Matt Dziurgot, all present.

Seating of alternates: Warren Herzig seated for Bob Miller, Matt Dziurgot seated for Melissa Dziurgot.

Jess A. made a motion to add Charter Revision to the agenda and approve the agenda as amended, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Chairman McLean, all ayes, no opposed, none abstaining. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve the minutes from May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026 meeting made by Jess A., 2<sup>nd</sup> by Hillary M. all ayes, no opposed, none abstaining, agenda approved unanimously.

Public comment: none

Old Business: None

New Business:

Department of Agriculture Enhancement Grant update, Chair McLean spoke to Durham Town Clerk's office and was told "There should be no problem digitizing the Durham Farm Map." Asked about expanding information, suggested maybe creating page two for digitized information and adding QR code. Chairman McLean was told that would be no problem, by Town Clerks office. Project designer to discuss directly with Town Clerks office. Susan Cummings spoke to Frank's Printing and although he couldn't finalize a price on larger paper either 14"x 8 1/2 or 11x14, he would get back to her shortly on size query.

Chairman McLean spoke to Finance Director that would carry over our budget from last year into next year. Jess A. had not heard back on purchasing orders from the State of Connecticut but expected per old communications with grant contact that the information should be forthcoming closer to the end of June. No word yet from additional properties, and that Jess A began compiling data on workable hours towards in kind match to the grant funds from DOAG. Matt D provided contact information on Whites Farm. Discussion on map placement and order of icons either descending north to south or circular. Discussion

on mirroring Guilford Farm Map example. Discussion on 80lb and 100lb paper. Jess A. asked if we could remove the quotations from the wording Right to Farm on the proposed Durham Agriculture Commission logo, and specifically for the Durham Farm Map. Discussion on placement and quotation, quotes to be removed on Right to Farm.

Hillary M. presented resources from The Northeast Organic Farming Association of Connecticut <https://ctnofa.org/winter-conference> conference she attended, noting contacts and new farmer initiatives. She noted the Small Business Development Center <https://ctsbdcc.econn.edu> and speaking with Murry Gates, that teams Agricultural Business Advisor. Discussion on the resources ability to access funding to help people develop a business plan, lease creation, farm succession, and that through state funded resources Connecticut is special in its ability to access and find funding. Discussion on the **FarmUp Program** with one-on-one assistance to new and existing farms <https://ctrcd.org> and **Connecticut FarmLink** for the transition between generations of landowners <https://ctfarmlink.org> Hillary M. suggested bookmarking these links and resources within the Agriculture Commission website/link of town website, or creating a new subset within our website to clearly maintain and update real events, resources, and educational tools for ease of community access. Discussion on New Connecticut Farmer Alliance <https://www.newctfarmers.com> Chairman McLean commented adding it to Durham Grown page could also make sense. Hillary M. suggested we reach out to DEEP as a contact for reference if they have support for local Ag Commissions working within communities.

#### Charter Revision:

Discussion on language for communication to be sent to the Charter Revision Commission based on the proposed draft presented during the public hearing that was held June 10<sup>th</sup> at the Community Center, and the hardcopy's that have been made available for public review at the Durham Public Library, Town Clerks office, and the Town Website [www.townofdurhamct.org/](http://www.townofdurhamct.org/)

Consensus taken and discussion around the Durham Agriculture Commission not having been formed prior to the current Durham CT Charter's enactment. Jess A. slated to send communication to their listed email chartercommission@townofdurhamct.org requesting the Durham Agriculture Commission be recognized formally in their proposed draft (for vote before the town.) Charter Commission noting they are looking for feedback from the towns boards, commissions, committees, and citizens for input.

Motion to adjourn made by Matt D, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Warren H. meeting adjourned at 8:04 pm.