

# **TOWN OF GRANBY AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION**

## **Minutes April 9, 2025**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Heather Lombardo, Sara Esthus, Ellen Whitlow, Rachel Antonucci

**Absent:** Liam O'Leary, Shirley Murtha, John O'Brien

**Others Present:** Kara Marshall and Jim Szipszky from the Conservation Commission, and Lee Shaw of Barndoor Hills Road

Chairperson Heather Lombardo called to order at 8:05 p.m.

### **MINUTES**

**ON A MOTION** by Ellen Whitlow, seconded Sara Esthus by the minutes of the February 12, 2025 meeting were approved (4-0-0).

### **OPEN FARM DAY**

- The Holcomb Farm Hoedown is scheduled for the same weekend as Open Farm Day. Jenny Emery is interested in doing collaborative advertising and promotions. Heather suggested that the Commission reach out to the Granby Grange to confirm their interest in collaborating. Heather, Sara, and Rachel will meet with Jenny Emery on Friday April 18 to do some brainstorming.
- Sponsors need to be confirmed.

### **AGRICULTURE DAY AT THE CAPITAL**

Agriculture Day at the State Capital was held on March 19. Sara and Rachel attended and reported that it was the busiest they had attended. There was lots of interest in individual farms. More literature and farm samples would be recommended for next year, as well as a map of local farms.

### **RIGHT TO FARM ORDINANCE**

The ordinance has been reviewed by various boards and commissions with a range of feedback. In general, it seems advisable to return to the original "policy statement" affirming the State's ordinance. Heather will confer with Selectman Peggy Chapel on a re-working of the document.

### **DISCUSSION WITH CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

Kara Marshall and Jim Szipszky of the Conservation Commission approached the Commission with concerns that the Town-Owned Land leases might want to contain more specific details regarding use and stewardship of the lands. Of particular concern is the use of

pesticides. Due to a complaint from an abutter to the Barndoor Hills Road town-owned property, the Conservation Commission, DEEP, and the Town Manager have had discussions this year. While the Commissions acknowledge that they are not responsible for writing lease agreements, there appeared to be some interest in recommending certain items be included.

Among the preliminary suggestions were 1) asking farmers to specify what types of pesticides and herbicides they will use 2) outlining the scheduled application of pesticides and herbicides 3) establishing a system of monitoring leases.

The Agricultural Commission agreed to discuss these ideas further and has decided to call a **Special Meeting** for such purpose on Thursday, May 1 at 6:30 p.m. (in the Police Department Community Room.)

#### **NEXT MEETING**

- A Special Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 1, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.
- The next regular meeting will be June 11, 2025

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

- **ON A MOTION** by Sara Esthus, seconded by Ellen Whitlow, the meeting was adjourned at 9:14 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren Stuck  
Recording Secretary