

TOWN OF GRANBY
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

MINUTES
July 9, 2025

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ellen Whitlow, Sara Esthus, Rachel Antonucci, Shirley Murtha

Absent: Liam O'Leary, John O'Brien

Others present: Joe O'Grady (Holcomb Farm)

Ellen Whitlow opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

Approval of the minutes of the June meeting have been tabled until corrections are emailed to the recording secretary.

ON A MOTION by Shirley Murtha seconded by Sara Esthus, the commission voted unanimously to add the following item to the agenda:

- Appoint a representative to the Plan of Conservation and Development Commission.

OPEN FARM DAY

Sara Esthus gave updates on participating farms noting that Michaud Farm is still a possibility, David Desiderato may want to set up a native flower stand, and hosting space is available at Holcomb Farm.

Sponsors need to be finalized. Sara will contact Farm Credit East. Rachel will follow up with Salmon Brook Vets.

Shirley Murtha requested ideas for The Drummer interview. Blooms of Lost Acres was suggested. Other publicity ideas included the Kissell and Friends broadcast, and the WFSB morning show. The insert for the Drummer should be finalized this month to meet the deadline for the September issue.

Updated postcards can be printed at any time. When sponsors are confirmed, the posters and sandwich boards can be completed. Directional signs to farms will go up on August 31.

Sara Esthus mentioned that she has an outstanding reimbursement request for the amount of \$40 for items she paid for at Signs Plus.

PLAN OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The Commission for the Plan of Conservation and development has requested a representative. Ellen Whitlow volunteered to do this. It is likely that the Right to Farm Ordinance will be managed by the POCD.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Joe O'Grady presented updates on Holcomb Farm. The acquisition of the Methodist Church property will make it possible to do a winter CSA. Indoor wash/pack stations, a break room for workers and an expanded, year-round store. Grants to create winter storage are on hand, but more funds will be needed. Additional goals include a new well, three new hoop houses and, someday perhaps, a commercial kitchen.

The next regular meeting, scheduled for August 13, will be cancelled, and a special meeting will be held on August 20 to finalize Open Farm Day duties. The Police Department Community Room is not available for the indefinite future. The recording secretary will secure a meeting space.

ON A MOTION by Rachel Antonucci, seconded by Sara Esthus, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted.

Lauren Stuck
Recording Secretary