

MINUTES OF OCTOBER 18, 2023 AGRIBUSINESS SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING
AT EAST LYME HIGH SCHOOL COMMONS

Members present: Mark Christensen, Kathy Christensen, Tom Yuhas, Terri Yuhas

Meeting opened at 6:30pm.

Delegates – none

September Minutes – approved 3 – 0

Discussion was held on both planned and potential Seminars to be held at the East Lyme Library. These included, Pollinator Pathways, Coyotes, and Oysters. Marjorie Meekhoff (Pollinator Pathways) had requested to include a Pollinator Pathway site by the new highway interchange in Flanders. It was discussed that the DOT requested approval from Kevin Seery (East Lyme First Selectman) to release a speaker from DOT for the seminar. Bios were needed for the speakers to the library by Oct. 27th. The Seminar on Coyotes would be provided by the DEEP. The Oyster Seminar would be presented by T.J. Londregan.

Discussion on potential Agriculture Education topics was held. Kathy Christensen brought up the following topics for presentations that have generated a lot of interest in the past; Homesteading, Canning (Pickles and Relish), Cooking over an open fire, Sourdough bread (making bread without yeast), implementing a hay field and harvesting the hay.

Upcoming Events sponsored by other organizations or schools in support of Agriculture were discussed as follows; (note that registration and fees may be involved)

1. Connecticut Farm Bureau Association (CFBA)
 - a. 2023 Ct Ag Expo – Nov 8th 8am – 2pm – at Aquaturf in Southington, Ct
 - b. 2023 CFBA Annual Mtg Nov 17th – Selling to Schools, Grants and Land Leases – Video Conference. Starts 8:30am. Includes Ag policy discussion and votes, government relations bill update, and Farm Bill update.
2. Penn State University Extension Living on a Few Acres Webinar Series
 - a. Oct 19th – Home Butchering
 - b. Oct 26th – Backyard Sheep, Goats, and Cattle
 - c. Nov 2nd – Equine and Pasture Management
 - d. Nov 9th – Backyard Poultry and Hogs
 - e. Nov 16th – Permaculture and Risk Management
3. Penn State University Extension – other
 - a. Farm Sense – Financial Statements in running a farm – Virtual Live Seminar Series Oct 19th – Nov 9th 2023
 - b. Agrivoltaics and Large-Scale Solar – Virtual Live Seminar Nov 16th 2023
 - c. Arborist Short Course Series – Virtual Live Seminar Jan 9th – Feb 9th 2024

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Cassandra M. Bell
TOWN CLERK

Past Events

End of the Harvest was a success. Seventy people attended the event. Representing the Agribusiness Sub-Committee Mark Christensen and his daughter made applesauce using a Dutch Oven. Representatives from the Samuel Smith house had a cider press on display. And T.J. Londregan provided oysters on the half shell.

None discussed

Upcoming Events:

East Lyme Library Agribusiness Sub-committee seminars – dates TBD

Other:

Meeting adjourned at 7:36 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Terri Yuhas
Secretary, East Lyme Agribusiness sub-committee