

MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 21, 2024 AGRIBUSINESS SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING
AT EAST LYME HIGH SCHOOL COMMONS

Members present: Mark Christensen, Jan Schenk Grosskopf, Nancy Kalal, Tom Yuhas, Terri Yuhas

Meeting opened at 6:40pm.

Delegates – none

January Minutes – approved 5 – 0

Discussion on potential Agriculture Education Topics.

Friday March 8th 10am – “DOT 161 Interchange Project”. DOT Field Office Suite 215, 309 Flanders Road, Latimer Brook Commons, East Lyme. (Snow data Friday March 15th). Set up by Marjorie Meekhoff of Pollinator Pathways)

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Saturday March 23rd 2pm – “Connecticut’s Eastern Coyote”. (Set up by Marjorie Meekhoff of Pollinator Pathways) East Lyme Room East Lyme Library.

Saturday April 6th 3pm – “Benefits of Local, Sustainably Grown Food”. East Lyme Room East Lyme Library. (Set up by the Agribusiness Sub-committee)

Additional Items/Reports

Tom Kalal has resigned from the Agribusiness Sub-committee. Tom has been appointed to the East Lyme Wetlands Agency. The Agribusiness Sub-committee wishes him all the best on this new appointment.

The group was asked to consider whether any programs taught by or coordinated by the group would fit more under a title of “Homesteading Series” as opposed to Agriculture. Needs continued discussion.

Tom and Terri Yuhas have been invited to attend the Arts and Agriculture 4-H group at the USDA building in Norwich on March 17th. Mark Christensen also provided the contact information for a local 4-H club in East Lyme called the “Pony Tails” 4-H club.

Mark Christensen stated that local tractor vendors were having difficulty finding skilled mechanics that can work on tractors. This will be communicated to the contacts at Ledyard Vo-Ag during the future tour of the school. It was also discussed that the sub-committee could ask Ledyard Vo-Ag if they would like to have a booth to promote the Vo-Ag program at one of the events at the Samuel Smith house. Making butter could also be demonstrated and potentially

have goats to represent dairy farming in the area as opposed to dairy cows. Another option was to reach out to UCONN Dairy.

Mark Christensen stated that he may have a contact that would be willing to teach cheese making during one of the events at the Samuel Smith house.

Tom and Terri reached out to Joe Bonelli, Associate Extension Educator Emeritus UCONN Extension, who stated that they could try and answer any questions the sub-committee may have related to livestock since the UCONN Extension service has not yet hired a replacement for the prior livestock coordinator. They also communicated that UCONN had a pasture-based livestock project through Northeast SARE that could be referenced.

Discussions were held on a way to train on planting and harvesting hay for interested farmers. Needs continued discussion.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Next Meeting: 20Mar2024

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