

MINUTES OF APRIL 17 2024 AGRIBUSINESS SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING  
AT EAST LYME HIGH SCHOOL COMMONS

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

Meeting opened at 6:38pm.

Delegates – none

March Minutes – approved 5 – 0

Discussion on upcoming tour of Ledyard Vo-Ag program.  
Tour scheduled for 25 April from 2:15 – 3pm.

Other Programs:

Mark Christensen also discussed the upcoming tractor show scheduled for June 8<sup>th</sup> 2024 from 10am – 3pm at the Samuel Smith House. Mark asked the sub-committee members to spread the word to people we may know who may be interested in bringing an antique tractor or truck.

Farm Day will be scheduled in October of 2024. More information to follow as we get closer to the date.

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EAST LYME, CT  
2024 MAY 10 A 10:33  
Cecilia M. [unclear]

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Additional Items/Reports

Mark Christensen attended a Zoom meeting on Wills, Trusts, and Land Transfers for Land Owners.

Terri Yuhas discussed information learned from the presentation on the New Bear Regulations in Conn. Put on by both the Connecticut Farm Bureau and the Conn DEEP. Besides field crops, it was also stated that livestock depredation by bear had occurred on chickens, goats, pigs, and rabbits. > 85% of livestock conflicts involved chickens. Concerns were raised that the agricultural cost to livestock when it occurred was high. Farmers need to ensure that they do not have a situation where they are attracting bears. Recommendations for electric fencing to help protect livestock from bears as well as other information could be found on the website [bearwise.org](http://bearwise.org).

There is no hunting season for bears in CT.

Reference to Substitute Senate Bill 1148 “An Act Authorizing Certain Killing of Black Bear and Prohibiting Intentional Feeding of Potentially Dangerous Animals.” Public Act 23-77 effective 01Oct2023 describing situation and the process where a permit/license for the taking of a bear can be requested. It was stated during the meeting that the online permitting or licensing

process was difficult and recommendations were made by some attendees for improvement. Concerns were also raised regarding the cost of electric fencing for large farm fields with crops.

It is recommended that the CT DEEP be contacted for additional and more specific information regarding licensing/permitting for bears.

Kathy Christensen has offered to teach a class on Introduction to Horses at Brookside Farms for Middle School age children.

Discussion was held on the Community Investment Act Fund and whether money could be available for preserving farms.

The Winter Seminar Series on Coyotes is to be rescheduled.

The presentation on Pollinators had 14 attendees.

Steve Dinsmore may come back to talk about bees at the Samuel Smith House in the fall.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:18 pm.

Next Meeting: 15May2024

Respectfully submitted,

Terri Yuhas

Secretary, East Lyme Agribusiness sub-committee