

## Hampton AgVocate Committee

### Special Meeting **Draft Minutes**

May 24, 2010

**Present:** Committee Members: Ron Gluck, Tim Huchthausen, Bruce Kittredge, Rob Miller, Diane Noyes, Mike Chapel,

**Also present:** Jennifer Kaufman, AgVocate Program representative, Reneé Cuprak, Frank Becker, Joanne Becker, Kate Donnelly (ex officio)

Kate Donnelly called the meeting to order at 7 PM.

Jennifer Kaufman gave an overview of the AgVocate Program. The pilot program began last year, with a grant from the Department of Agriculture, to provide assistance to towns in Eastern Connecticut. The program began with six communities, and four were added this year. Jennifer would like to find a focus for what Hampton's AgVocate Committee would like to accomplish.

Those present introduced themselves, and articulated the goals they would like to see for this program.

Ron Gluck expressed that he would like to be able to keep his 236 acre farm the way it has been. Renee Cuprak feels there are too many restrictions put on farms, and these restrictions do not accommodate what smaller farms are doing. Many of the rules are onerous.

Jennifer asked if people are satisfied with zoning regulations. Bruce Kittredge stated that P&Z regulations are farm friendly, but he wants to make sure the farms are protected. Jennifer stated that passing a "Right-to-Farm" ordinance could be one of the Committee's goals. Renee stated that some towns are trying to set limits on livestock, but they have not been successful.

Jennifer asked if we have an inventory of farms in Hampton; we do not.

The AgVocate Program received additional funding to develop brochures. Two soon to be published are "*Value of Agriculture to Communities*" and "*How to be a good neighbor to farmers.*" They also have a template that other towns have used for advertising Hampton grown produce.

Kate said that she would like to feature farms on the new town website.

Renee asked about size of farms. The AgVocate Program does not discriminate by size of farm. Bruce said he would like to see health districts make laws uniform concerning farms and farmer's markets.

Jennifer said she hopes to develop an infrastructure for dealing with these issues, and for developing resources.

Renee asked what other towns are focusing on. Jennifer responded that towns: review P&Z ordinances, establish right-to-farm ordinances, identify farmers, create brochures, and establish permanent committees.

Regular meeting dates were established. The Committee will meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month in the Town Hall Community Room at 7:00p.m.

Tim Huchthausen made a motion to nominate Bruce Kittredge as Committee Chair, seconded by Mike Chapel. Approved unanimously by Committee.

Mike Chapel made a motion to nominate Ron Gluck for Vice-Chair, seconded by Bruce Kittredge. Approved unanimously by Committee.

Renee Cuprak made a motion to nominate Rob Miller as Secretary, seconded by Tim Huchthausen. Approved unanimously by Committee.

Tim Huchthausen moved to adjourn at 8 pm, seconded by Mike Chapel, approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Kate Donnelly