

**TOWN OF SOMERS  
ZONING COMMISSION**

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
JANUARY 7, 2013  
7:00 PM TOWN HALL**

**I. CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 by Chairperson Jill Conklin. Members present were Dan Fraro, Paige Rasid (seated for Sam Smith), Karl Walton, and Rob Martin. Also present was John Collins, Building Official.

**II. PUBLIC HEARING: NONE**

**III. NEW BUSINESS:**

Annual Meeting:

a. Election of officers

Dan Fraro nominated Jill Conklin for the Zoning Chairperson. Seconded by Karl Walton, all were in favor to nominate Jill for Chairperson, motion carried. Jill will continue to be the Zoning Commission's Chairperson.

Rob Martin is vacating as Vice Chairman. Paige Rasid nominated Karl Walton to become Vice-Chair of the Zoning Commission. Seconded by Rob Martin, all in favor, motion carried. Karl Walton will be new Vice-Chair for the Zoning Commission.

Karl Walton nominated Dan Fraro as Secretary. Seconded by Jill Conklin, all in favor, motion carried. Dan Fraro will continue as the Secretary for the Zoning Commission.

b. Review of by-laws

Rob Martin made a recommendation that the Zoning Commission adopt the existing by-laws as written. Seconded by Dan Fraro, all in favor, motion carried.

**IV. OLD BUSINESS: NONE**

**V. MINUTES APPROVAL: (12/03/2012)**

There was a small typo in the minutes. Jill Rasid's name was spelled wrong on page 1.

Rob Martin made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. Seconded by Karl Walton, all in favor, motion carried.

**VI. STAFF/COMMISSION REPORTS: NONE**

## **VII. CORRESPONDENCE AND BILLS**

### **BOS Request**

John Collins passed out copies of signing regulations from Ellington, Bolton, East Windsor, and Suffield. The BOS would like the commission to review these regulations and come back with ideas/comments at the next meeting. John Collins commented that the main problem in Somers are the temporary signs. John explained the town would have to continue to do periodic sign sweeps to address this problem.

John Collins presented a solution for the farm signs based on the Connecticut Farm maps. A connection has been established at the Connecticut Farm Bureau. Farmers can request their farm to be advertised on the state map and on state signs. A picture of what crops/produce the farm sells can be put on a state sign to direct drivers in the right direction.

Dan Fraro will try to get in touch with Joan Nichols, a contact from the Connecticut Farm Bureau. Mike D'Amato from the Land Use Office has emailed Joan Nichols to get info regarding the costs and the steps involved to complete the sign project.

Commission members agreed sooner than later is best to inform the local farmers of the idea so they can apply for the signs before spring/summer during their busy season.

Lisa Pellegrini, First Selectman was present during the meeting and discussed the Agricultural Directional Signage Program. She feels this will be very good for tourism for Somers and a good resolution to the temporary farm sign issues.

There was a brief discussion about having a community board/place to put up sign for sports, school functions, town happenings, etc.

There was also a brief discussion regarding blighted properties in the town. Members discussed whether or not Somers should incorporate anti-blight laws. Members discussed pros and cons of going forward with this idea.

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

*A motion was made by Paige Rasid to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 pm. Seconded by Karl Walton, all in favor, motions carried.*

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Julia Sarno, recording secretary*