

Minutes of the Town of Farmington
Regular Town Council Meeting
July 11, 2017

Present:

Nancy W. Nickerson, Chair
Jon Landry
Peter M. Mastrobattista
Gary Palumbo
Amy Suffredini
Meredith A. Trimble
John Vibert

Kathy Eagen, Town Manager
Paula B. Ray, Clerk

A. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

The Council and members of the public recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. Presentations and Recognitions

There were no presentations or recognitions.

D. Public Hearing

There was no public hearing held.

E. New Items

Motion was made and seconded (Trimble/Mastrobattista) to add as Agenda Item N-9 to take any action related to events surrounding the Town Meeting on June 5, 2017 and any possible action regarding the Farmington High School Building Committee with action to be taken after Executive Session.

Adopted unanimously

F. Public Comment

Pam Fisher of 5 Julles Court told the Council she was disappointed in the outcome of the High School referendum, but she was thrilled to see a 40% turnout. She found that the Building Committee process was very good and non-partisan in its actions. She asked the Board of Education representative be removed from the Committee because she had missed 33% of the meetings. She asked Justin Bernier be removed from the Committee not because of his views but because of the events of

June 5, 2017 at the Special Town Meeting and the letter to the editor in the Valley Press dated June 29, 2017, which she believed was inflammatory and full in insinuations. She discussed several of the needs of the High School and how they were all priority.

Stephen Kay of 57 Garden Gate told the Council he was concerned that a discussion of the High School project wasn't on the agenda and thanked Mrs. Trimble for adding it. He saw during the referendum that there were strong feelings on both sides. He felt the tactics used by the no side were very different than the yes side. He wanted things to be the same for everyone in the future defining what is acceptable and what is not acceptable.

Tim Kelly of 62 Westview Terrace told the Council he had expected the referendum to fail but was surprised by the large margin of failure. He believed the results showed the Town Council, Board of Education and Building Committee were not aware of the community's feelings on the project. He suggested that the Council step back and reconnect with the community as your next focus. He discussed how important to talk with people of differing views. He strongly suggested the next step should not be to bring back a smaller version of he failed plan and suggested the best thing would be to focus on an aspect of the project that could be done and accepted such as the auditorium.

Emily Kaliney of 30 High Street urged the Council to stay focused on the problems at the High School and move forward. She told the Council that she felt the editorial in the Valley Press written by Jon Landry and Justin Bernier showed they want to be included in planning going forward for the High School. She believed because of the actions they had taken on June 5, 2017 at the Special Town Meeting they could not be involved going forward. It was her opinion their actions were unethical.

She read an email from Jean Baron into the record, which is recorded with these minutes as Agenda Item F-1.

Kurt Krauland of 37 Red Coat Lane felt that many of the people that turned out to vote no at the High School referendum were doing so based on the wrong facts. He believed the opposition to the proposal used misinformation to defeat the project. He asked that moving forward the public be more involved and educated on any new projects.

G. Reading of Minutes.

1. June 13, 2017 Regular Town Council Meeting

Motion was made and seconded (Trimble/Mastrobattista) to approve the minutes of the June 13, 2017 Regular Town Council Meeting.

Adopted unanimously

H. Reading of Communications and Written Appeals

1. Kathleen Eagen – correspondence to Dr. Andrew Agwunobi, UConn Health

The Manager called the Council's attention to the letter to Dr. Andre Agwunobi informing the Town about the continuation of the UCONN Health Center Fire Department, and the emails that had been left at their places regarding the Farmington High School building project recorded with these minutes as Agenda Item H-1.

The Chair reported the Town had received a Thank you note from the Adorno Family for the Town's help with their fundraising event that had been held at Winding Trails.

I. Report of Committees

1. UCONN Committee(s)
2. Land Acquisition Committee
3. Green Efforts Committee

There were no reports for Agenda Items I-1 through I-3.

4. Joint Town of Farmington/City of Hartford Committee

The Chair reported progress had been made on the project. The City of Hartford was putting out an RFP for developers for the site.

5. Bicycle Advisory Committee

Mr. Vibert reported the Committee was still working on road signage to facilitate bike paths between different Towns.

6. Farmington Gateway Committee

There was no report for Agenda Item I-6.

7. Farmington High School Building Committee

Mrs. Trimble reported the Committee had had a meeting after the referendum to wrap up their work, authorize the payment of the outstanding bills and that the Chair had attended to thank all of the Committee and everyone else that had been involved with the project.

J. Report of the Council Chair and Liaisons

1. Chair Report

The Chair reported that she had been meeting with the Town's legislators and the State Department of Environmental and Energy Protection to find more land for the Riverside Cemetery and that the Town was pleased with UCONN Health Center's decision to keep a fire department. The Chair read into the record the statement recorded with these minutes as Agenda Item J-1 regarding the Farmington High School project.

2. Board of Education Liaison Report

Mr. Landry reported the Board of Education was negotiating the nurse's contract.

3. Unionville Village Improvement Association Liaison Report

Mrs. Trimble reported the outdoor movies were starting July 14th at Union School and the movie was Moana. The Movies were sponsored by UVIA, the Farmington Community Chest and the Farmington Recreational Services. The next movie was Willy Wonka on July 28th.

4. Town Plan and Zoning Liaison Report

There was no report for Agenda Item J-4.

5. Water Pollution Control Authority Report

Mrs. Trimble reported the WPCA was meeting the next evening.

6. Economic Development Commission Liaison Report

7. Human Relations Commission Report

There were no reports for Agenda Items J-6 and J-7.

8. Chamber of Commerce Report

Mr. Landry reported Phil Chabot had been elected the President of the Farmington Community Chest and Michele Hamilton had been hired as the Executive Director of the Bristol Central Chamber of Commerce, which is the organization that the Farmington Chamber of Commerce is under.

9. Other Liaison Reports

There were no other Liaison reports.

K. Report of Town Manager

Sub Edge Farm Yearly Report

The Manager called the Council's attention to the report, which is recorded with these minutes as Agenda Item K-1.

Budget Update

The Manager reported the Farmington 2016-2017 Fiscal Year Budget was in the process of being closed out. There was nothing to report on the State budget, so the Town was slowing down capital expenditures for the 2017-2018 Fiscal Budget until the State budget was completed in case Farmington received less than was budgeted for State grants.

L. Appointments

1. Plainville Area Cable TV Advisory Council (R)
2. North Central Regional Mental Health Board, Inc. (Wienke)(R)
3. Building Code Board of Appeals (Hammerberg)(D)
4. Housing Authority (Lawless) (R)
5. Joint Green Efforts Committee (Foote)
6. Farmington Valley Health District (Parlow) (D)
7. Human Relations Commission (Sliwinski) (R)
8. Human Relations Commission (Berzins) (D)
9. Human Relations Commission (Mambrino) (R)

10. Tourism Central Regional District (Bernier) (R)
There were no new appointments made.

M. Old Business

There was no old business conducted.

N. New Business

1. To authorize the Town Manager to purchase the town's streetlights from Eversource and execute the contracts with Tanko for the conversion of the streetlights to LED and for the maintenance of the streetlights with a cost not to exceed \$1.5 million

Motion was made and seconded (Trimble/Mastrobattista) to authorize the Town Manager to purchase the town's streetlights from Eversource and execute the contracts with Tanko for the conversion of the streetlights to LED and for the maintenance of the streetlights with a cost not to exceed \$1.5 million.

Adopted unanimously

2. To extend the agreement between the Town of Farmington and Waste Material Trucking Company, Inc. for a one year period ending June 30, 2018

Motion was made and seconded (Trimble/Mastrobattista) to extend the agreement between the Town of Farmington and Waste Material Trucking Company, Inc. for a one year period ending June 30, 2018.

Adopted unanimously

3. To set a public hearing on Tuesday, September 12, 2017 at 7:05 p.m. in the Town Council Chambers concerning the issuance of bonds by the Wisconsin Public Finance Authority and a plan of finance for Mosaic

Motion was made and seconded (Trimble/Mastrobattista) to set a public hearing on Tuesday, September 12, 2017 at 7:05 p.m. in the Town Council Chambers concerning the issuance of bonds by the Wisconsin Public Finance authority and a plan of finance for Mosaic.

Adopted unanimously

4. To authorize the Town Manager to execute and deliver on behalf of the Town of Farmington a conservation easement across Town property abutting Serra Drive

Motion was made and seconded (Trimble/Mastrobattista) to authorize the Town Manager to execute and deliver on behalf of the Town of Farmington the attached conservation easement across Town property abutting Serra Drive.

Adopted unanimously

5. To authorize the Town Manager to execute the required documentation for the Connecticut Community Connectivity Grant Program

Motion was made and seconded (Trimble/Mastrobattista) to authorize the Town Manager to execute the required documentation for the Connecticut Community Connectivity Grant Program.

Adopted unanimously

6. To cancel the August 8, 2017 Regular Town Council Meeting

Motion was made and seconded (Trimble/Mastrobattista) to cancel the August 8, 2017 Regular Town Council Meeting.

Adopted unanimously

7. To authorize the Town Manager to accept the \$10,000 grant award for the program "FUNCOPS" through the Office of Policy and Management under the Police and Youth Program

Motion was made and seconded (Trimble/Mastrobattista) to authorize the Town Manager to accept the \$10,000 grant award for the program "FUNCOPS" through the Office of Policy and Management under the Police and Youth Program.

Adopted unanimously

8. To approve property tax refunds

Motion was made and seconded (Trimble/Mastrobattista) to approve the following property tax refunds:

NAME	REASON	AMOUNT
1)Cab East LLC	Assessor's adjustment	\$1,016.61
2)Enterprise F M Trust	Assessor's adjustment	\$239.76
3)Gisella Moncayo	Overpayment	\$26.70
4)Porsche Leasing	Assessor's adjustment	\$659.79
	TOTAL:	\$1,942.86

Adopted unanimously

The Council went into recess at 8:00 p.m. until 8:10 p.m.

O. Executive Session

Motion was made and seconded (Trimble, Mastrobattista) to move to Executive session at 8:10 pm with the Town Council, the Town Manager and the Town Attorney(s) present for discussion of attorney-client privileged communication exempt for disclosure.

Adopted unanimously

The Council returned to open session at 10:07 p.m.

Motion was made and seconded (Trimble, Mastrobattista) to move to Executive session at 10:08 pm with the Town Council, the Town Manager and the Town Attorney(s) present for discussion of attorney-client privileged communication exempt for disclosure.

The Council returned to open session at 10:09 pm.

New Business

9. To take action related to events surrounding the Town Meeting on June 5, 2017 and any possible action regarding the Farmington High School Building Committee

A motion was made and seconded (Trimble, Mastrobattista) to direct Bill Wadsworth, Chair of the Farmington High School Building Committee to ask Justin Bernier to resign from the Farmington High School Building Committee.

Councilman Landry requested that the record show that he was not support of this motion based on his belief it was not the appropriate place for this.

There was no other discussion.

Adopted

Voting yes were Palumbo, Mastrobattista, Trimble, Nickerson, Vibert, Suffredini.

Voting no was Landry.

P. Adjournment

Motion was made and seconded (Trimble, Mastrobattista) to adjourn the meeting at 10:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula B. Ray, Clerk

Paula Ray

From: Emily Kaliney <emilykaliney@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 11, 2017 7:21 PM
To: Paula Ray
Subject: Fwd: TC Meeting

Begin forwarded message:

From: Jean BARON <ctbarons@comcast.net>
Date: July 11, 2017 at 4:47:36 PM EDT
To: Evelyn Kaliney <emilykaliney@hotmail.com>
Subject: TC Meeting

My name is Jean Baron. I live at 22 Basswood Rd. I served on the Board of Education for 16 years and five building committee's, most recently the Farmington High School Building Committee. I'd like to address the editorial written by Town Council member John Landry and Building Committee member Justin Bernier. In that editorial they offer what they call a solution to the needs of Farmington high school, by saying we need to form a permanent building committee. They claim the system that has worked for us for many many years is broken. They throw out buzzwords like, rush jobs, arbitrary dates, single plans offered, etc. All these things didn't happen. Building Committee's in Farmington have been hugely successful, always staffed with exceptionally knowledgeable town volunteers and have consistently met the scope of the project place before them. Bill Wadsworth is the Chair of the Farmington high school building committee. He's a well-known person in Farmington, who has a significant background in construction and serving on building committee's. He's a champion for the open land we enjoy in town. The needs of the high school have been known for years. Over the last few years the Town Council has received reports from the Farmington Board of Education about the needs of the Farmington High School. There's no way that anybody sitting on the Town Council was surprised by this project because they voted unanimously for the scope of the project. They also received the seven plans that the building committee looked at over an 18 month period. So here we are. The referendum was defeated for many reasons but one of the main reasons is that the NO group jumped on the arbitrary \$184 million figure. Nobody was asked to vote to spend that. The needs of the high school are still here but we need to now figure out a different way to approach fixing them. I have no doubt that will be another thoughtful process but I do hope we don't second guess what we know.
Thank you

Jean B. Baron

Sent from Xfinity Connect Mobile App

From: Meghan Naujoks <meghannaujoks@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 09, 2017 2:33 PM
To: Nancy Nickerson; Gary Palumbo; Jon Landry; Peter Mastrobattista; Amy Suffredini; Meredith Trimble; John Vibert
Cc: Town Council Account for e-Mail
Subject: Rebuilding FHS- Action Plan?

Please submit the following letter in the meeting minutes for the July 11, 2017 TC Meeting:

Dear Members of Town Council,

I am disappointed in the results of the June 15th Referendum, as I believe our community has missed out on a great opportunity. However, I respect the outcome and want to see this community move forward. FHS is still in dire need of repair. I look to you to please outline what's next and lead our community towards a solution that the majority can support.

Along with the record high voter turnout, I see this new starting point as an opportunity for all of our elected officials to rally our community around this project going forward. My wish is to see ALL members of this Council supportive of the plan put forth at the next referendum. While the D1 Plan had overwhelming bi-partisan support this time around, it was sabotaged by a small minority and our town (and our students) now must suffer consequences. Next time, there should not be any side to take- just an opportunity to rebuild FHS into a more modern, and secure facility.

Farmington cannot afford for this project to fail at the polls again. We also cannot afford to wait for a building commission to be established as Mr. Landry has suggested in the Valley Press. At this point, and going forward, community engagement is critical.

In order to build support of this effort in the future, residents must be informed on the following:

1. That we are starting over. For the thousands of voters who believe that we simply go back to Plan B, or that there's a "secret plan" to lean on- they must be made aware that this is not how it works. There will be problems passing this again for lack of disclosure if this is not made public- this needs to be stated beyond any meeting minutes as soon as possible.
2. The process. Many voters believe that they should go to the polls and pick out their favorite option. Most are not aware that they have an opportunity to weigh in long before this comes to a referendum. Detailing the steps taken before these projects are voted on would help residents to make a more informed decision when they vote. It would also mitigate the belief (spread by ResponsibleFHS) that these decisions are made lightly and in a vacuum. I realize this is superfluous, but you have an opportunity to engage residents and keep them involved – starting now.

3. Who will be involved. Knowing who will be on the next building committee- (even if it's the same people- with exceptions*), why these individuals were chosen to serve and what they are charged with will also help residents understand the process and see this more as a community effort rather than a political one.

I understand that the building committee has already sent three separate mailings, but I implore you to please send out a fourth one that details where we go from here and how we get to the next referendum regarding FHS.

People will always seek out information that leans towards their own perspective, but I feel strongly that if the town can get ahead of the privately funded messages this time around- Farmington will be in a better place than it is today. Knowledge, and respect for the process will unite us and move us forward.

Thank you,

Meghan Naujoks

5 Trumbull Lane, Farmington CT 06032

* I respectfully request that Mr. Bernier and Ms. Hamilton be removed from the committee. I believe that Mr. Bernier attempted to sway voters at the Town Meeting by placing unauthorized materials with the Town's presentation and his efforts got in the way of our referendum process. He is not above the rules and should be penalized accordingly. Ms. Hamilton was seen telling voters at a polling location to vote no. While she certainly has a right to her opinion, an elected official should know better than to get in the way of the election process.

Finally, their involvement with the ResponsibleFHS group indicates that they are willing to mislead voters and slander the months of hard work the committee they served with put forth. Their efforts were misleading and not in line with the values of this Council. They should not have the privilege of sitting on this committee (or any other) again. Farmington residents deserve better.

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Meghan H. Naujoks
(860) 205-8290

Kathy Eagen

From: Nancy Nickerson
Sent: Tuesday, July 11, 2017 2:47 PM
To: Kathy Eagen
Subject: FW: comments for tonight's meeting

From: Sarah Burns [sarah.r.burns@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, July 11, 2017 1:23 PM
To: Nancy Nickerson; Gary Palumbo; Jon Landry; Peter Mastrobattista; Amy Suffredini; Meredith Trimble; John Vibert
Subject: comments for tonight's meeting

Dear Town Council Members,

Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend tonight's Town Council meeting to make public comment. Below is what I would have shared if I had been able to speak. I would ask that this be included in the meeting minutes for tonight's meeting.

I've read comments from several of you in local press coverage that you were pleased with the large turnout for the June 15th referendum. I agree that it was great to see so many town residents turn out to vote. I was personally disappointed by the outcome and, like many others I've spoken to, am left wondering what is next. The very large problems at the high school are not going away, and I think it is the town's responsibility to address those problems with a comprehensive, long-term solution.

I'm writing to ask that you quickly re-engage the town in developing a solution to the high school. The high turnout in the referendum indicates that this is an issue our town residents care about, and I'm hopeful that you can capitalize on the momentum from the referendum to begin working towards another solution that our town can support.

I would also ask, however, that as part of this re-engagement you address the misinformation that was widely spread during the time leading up to the referendum. I fear that many citizens voted no because of information presented as "fact" like:

- The project will cost \$184 million;
- The building committee never looked at a renovation plan;
- The threat of loss of accreditation is a "scare tactic";
- The building committee members stand to personally benefit from a new building.

All of this information, as you well know - and many of you have publicly stated - is incorrect. (As an aside, it is unfortunate that this \$184 million figure was on a slide at the Town Meeting. It was presented in context, but its appearance on a slide allowed for that number to be taken out of context and used as a reason to vote down the project.) However, I've personally talked to many town residents who have given me one of the above reasons for voting against the project. As long as the public believes that these were the "facts" of this building proposal, I fear it is going to be difficult to re-start a conversation around this topic in a productive way.

I think that the Town Council is the appropriate body to clarify the facts of the original project. I do think that sharing this factual information, along with a call to re-engage the citizens of Farmington in coming up with a comprehensive high school solution, is necessary to move forward.

Thank you so much for your time, and for what you do for our town.

Sincerely,
Sarah Burns

Kathy Eagen

From: no-reply@parastorage.com
Sent: Tuesday, July 11, 2017 12:48 PM
To: greiderk@fpsct.org
Subject: New message via your website, from Scottlister92@yahoo.com

- **You have a new message:**
- Via: <https://www.fhsbuildingproject.org/>
- **Message Details:**
 -
 - **Name** Scott Lister
 - **Email** Scottlister92@yahoo.com
 - **Subject** Follow up on 6/5 town meeting - Bermier action
 - **Message** Dear All, I was upset to see the actions that were reported in the Hartford Courant during the 6/5 town meeting. The tactics used by Justin Bermier were deceitful. Please advise if any action is being taken to avoid a repeat performance. Furthermore, and this may be out of scope, I was astonished by the misinformation given by "Responsible FHS". It undermined the FHS committee hard work and due diligence. Please share as I may be unable to make the meeting this afternoon. Thank you.
- **Sent on:** 11 July, 2017
- Thank you!

From: Maureen Messier <maureenmessier@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Sunday, July 09, 2017 8:48 PM
To: Town Council Account for e-Mail
Subject: FHS

Good evening,

I would be very interested in learning of a proposal to build FHS at a new location, away from Route 4. I understand the need for a new high school and believe this is be an ideal time to relocate the school. FHS traffic is a nuisance to commuters who use Route 4. I cannot imagine that the Route 4 traffic will decrease in the near future, as the towns west of Farmington continue to develop. As well, the commuter traffic is a nuisance to the students, staff, faculty, and parents entering and exiting FHS.

In addition to traffic, the proposed plan of rebuilding the school in stages is disruptive to learning. Regardless of what the proponents of the recent proposal say, construction is plainly disruptive. Why not build elsewhere? I've heard there is a desire to preserve open space. It seems to me that there must be another location suitable for a high school that would also alleviate the traffic concerns. For example, the current location of WestWoods Golf Course should be considered. Has a plea been made to local land owners for a gift of land? Does the town own other land that might be suitable? Could the current location of FHS, including the fields and courts, be used for recreation?

I am in favor of building a high school to meet the town's needs, but the proposed plan seemed foolish and exorbitant to me. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Yours,

Maureen Messier

From: Scott Halstead <halstead2010@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2017 9:46 AM
To: Town Council Account for e-Mail
Subject: FHS

Town Councilors,

I was disappointed in the recent referendum results regarding a new high school in Farmington. I have been traveling to surrounding towns recently and see many with newer school facilities and it is disappointing we do not have the same in our town. I strongly encourage the Town Council to keep this issue at the forefront of discussions. We need to find a plan that works for everyone in our community. The issue is too important to let slip due to the recent vote. Thank you for your time.

Scott Halstead
20 Trotters Glen

Sent from my iPad

From: Catherine Noujaim <cmnouja@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 11, 2017 11:47 AM
To: Town Council Account for e-Mail
Subject: Farmington High School Public comment

Hi,

I would like the town to consider green options with a new high school or renovation. A green roof or a solar roof, solar parking lot and paths, green options for heating and cooling, more flexibility. We are in the middle of climate change, of a global extinction event, and we desperately need to start thinking outside the box. We can't afford "conventional" ways of doing things anymore, as everything affects the planet deeply.

Tearing down existing structures creates tremendous waste, and most construction materials are created from oil extraction/petroleum products. We have to do these things on a town-by town level, and create demand for environmentally conscious renovation and design. Create a design that isn't reliant on AC only to cool the school. Windows that open, transoms above the doors that open, for airflow. We did not have AC until relatively recently. And the more AC and oil/gas heat is used, the hotter the planet gets. Plus, the electric bills and utility bills get higher. At least one of our state parks has environmentally friendly bathrooms.... Even just incorporating a design that uses greywater to flush the toilets and water the lawn. Last summer we had a drought. Droughts are getting more frequent, worldwide.

We not only need to plan for accessibility but for the future of the planet.

Thank you for reading this,

Sincerely

Catherine Noujaim

From: Scott Lister <scottlister92@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 11, 2017 3:30 PM
To: Town Council Account for e-Mail
Subject: Public Comment regarding FHS Building vote

Good Afternoon,

I will not be able to attend today's meeting, but I would appreciate the opportunity to make a written public comment.

I am disappointed by the deceitful tactics during the June town meeting as reported by the Hartford Courant. This reflects poorly on our town, and I'd like to know what action(s) are being taken to avoid this from happening again.

I was also disappointed by "ResponsibleFHS" PAC tactics. The building committee evaluated multiple options and worked in a transparent and bipartisan manner. I applaud them! The misinformation distributed by "ResponsibleFHS" was extraordinarily disappointing and fully undercut the building committee's efforts. And worst of all there was not an alternative solution recommended by "ResponsibleFHS" with estimated costs and timing.

Thank you!
Scott Lister
8 Candlewood Lane

Sent from my iPhone

CHAIR'S REPORT FHS 7/11/17

On June 15th, we had a referendum for the renovation of Farmington High School. This referendum did not pass. The voter turnout was nearly 40% - the highest percentage turnout for a referendum since 1995. I am happy that our community got engaged but disappointed at the outcome. I believe that the Farmington Community is in agreement that there are needs at the high school that should be addressed. The challenge we face is finding a solution that our community will support. The needs are not going away!

There is no Plan B waiting to be moved forward. The plan moved to referendum took a great deal of time and hard work. I commend the building committee for their commitment, dedication and long hours. There were many plans considered, many meetings and community sessions with public input. As we look for a solution, public input and participation will be very important as it was with the first referendum. We will begin again to find a solution to address the needs of Farmington High School that the community will support. Our citizens and our students deserve a solution for the future.



Agenda Item K-1 K

MEMORANDUM

TO: Town Council
FROM: Kathleen A. Eagen, Town
DATE: July 11, 2017
SUBJECT: Town Manager Goal #12(a) – Sub Edge Farm

To provide the Town Council a yearly report on Sub Edge Farm at Fisher Farm.

The mission of the Sub Edge Farm "is to provide nourishing food to the local community while promoting healthy lifestyles, encouraging loving stewardship of the land and strengthening the local economy." The farm is managed by Rodger and Isabelle Phillips. The Phillips live on the farm with their five children. Land is leased from the towns of Avon and Farmington.

The Sub-Edge Farm at Fisher Farm continues to thrive. The 2016 growing season was an overall success. While drought conditions brought about challenges, the farm was able to increase the number of CSA shares, implement needed capital improvements, and offer the community a variety of educational and recreational farm experiences.

The Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program has grown from 100 to 200 families in the last three years. In 2015/2106 a meat share program was added as well as an egg share program. In 2016/2017 the farm piloted a 25 member winter share program. Bi-weekly pick-ups from December to February offered storage crops and winter greens. The 2017 16 week CSA program is currently sold out. A new venture with Mystic Cheese, Sweet Sage Bakery, and New Park Brewing now enables the farm to offer a "Beer, Bread, Cheese and Veggie" 9 week CSA.

The Farm Shop continues to be an important part of the farm economy. The farm shop sells organic vegetable transplants in early spring and offers fruits, vegetables, herbs, meat, cheese eggs, and other food items throughout the year. The Farm Shop is open Tuesday – Saturday.

The Farm continues to grow in terms of the amount of land that is cultivated. The North field was expanded to grow 4 acres of potatoes and 10 acres of grain. A new growing area was also created on the eastern most field for cover crops and brassicas. The farm continually evaluates the health of the soil and works on proper crop rotation.

The Farm aims to have a growth rate of 5-10% per year. To do this they continually invest back into the farm. They also seek to maintain a reserve for future capital purchases. In the first three years they have invested over \$250,000 into the farm. Some of this is from their own finances as well as many grants and other funding sources such as internet based crowd funding campaigns (Indiegogo, Go Fund Me). Investments have been made into equipment, labor, fencing, and infrastructure. They have also made investments into the soil to build its health and improving its structure. Some examples of infrastructure investments include a new tractor,

freezers and refrigerators for the farm shop, a tent for community events, an egg washer, and three hoophouses or high tunnels. The high tunnels are the latest investment which will allow the farm to extend the growing season and offer the piloted winter share program. At a cost of \$45,000 the tunnels were paid from Phillips' family farm funds and a federal grant.

An increased flock of laying hens has been purchased to support the egg share. The summer of 2016 had a seven member farm crew hired to assist in the planting, weeding and harvesting of the crops. Three of these laborers were Farmington residents. There are also more beef cattle on the farm as well as seasonal poultry such as turkeys and geese. These birds are sold at the holiday season.

The Town of Farmington has also made capital investments into the farm. In the last three years several important projects were completed. A new well was installed for the farm house. A new agricultural well was also installed (this was grant funded at 50%). The vegetable barn roof was replaced and the exterior was painted in June, 2016. Some other minor painting has occurred as well as the repaving of the farm driveway in 2015 by Town forces. In addition to grant funding we have received through the farm viability grant, these projects are also funded with the revenue received from the cell tower located on farm property.

There is a capital improvement plan for future repairs and investment. The Town was awarded a 2017 Farm Viability Grant. This grant will make improvements to the cow barn to enable year-round crop storage, replace the skylight panel in the heifer barn and repair the roof on the tin barn, in accordance with the Sub Edge Farm Five -Year Capital Improvement Plan. Infrastructure improvements to the Cow Barn, Heifer Barn and Tin Barn on Sub Edge Farm will equip the Phillips Family with the tools necessary to make Connecticut Grown Agriculture available year round. The various improvements will enable the safe storage of crops, as well as the protection of animals and equipment, both of which are an integral part of the farm and business and necessary to preserve for year-round use.

Sub Edge Farm is very active in the community. They seek to engage with the community through food donation and education and recreation programming. The farm donates approximately 3,500 lbs of food each year to emergency food programs. Additionally, as part of the lease agreement, a monetary value of approximately \$5,000 or 10 CSA shares is donated to the Farmington Food Pantry and Gifts of Love. Gifts of Love services the greater Hartford community. In addition to emergency food pantries, the farm has donated to the Hometown Foundation, who hosts Dream Ride. The Farm also donated produce to the Farmington Land Trust's Farm-To Table Tasting at the West District Nature Preserves for over 300 people.

In 2016 the farm hosted three workshops for children on food and farming topics including cooking with vegetables, pasture raised poultry and beekeeping. The Farmington High School Industrial Arts class worked with the farm to produce poultry tractors. These units protect the fowl from predators and allow the farmers to move the fowl to new grazing land easily. Last year the farm hosted a farm tour and talk on composting for the Farmington Green Efforts Committee. Workshops have been held on the farm for young farmers and the Phillip's have given talks at the Northeast Organic Farming Association's winter conference. The farm has worked with and donated to *Simsbury A Better Chance*, a group that works on closing the educational gap for students of color. In 2016 the Phillip's visited community groups to talk about farm related topics. Some of these groups included the Avon-Canton Rotary Club, the Farmington Garden Club, and the Farmington Library.

In 2016 an Open Farm Day was held to engage the public in the workings of the farm and what was offered there. The farm website includes information on the crops grown as well as recipes, cooking and storage tips and nutrition facts. The farm has partnered with several restaurant

groups for Farm to Table dining events. These have been very well attended with the most recent events being sold out. The farm was also involved in a national marketing campaign for Nabisco's Triscuit cracker. The commercial highlighted a Sub Edge farm egg in its appetizer idea. The Phillips' represented the United States at a food and farming conference (Terra Madre), running September 22-26, 2016 in Turin, Italy. The conference focused on ways to change the food system through global consciousness and a deep respect for the diverse, international food movement. They were invited by Slow Food, USA to represent America.

The ultimate objective of the Phillips' is to continue to grow the farm. They want to continue to invest in the soil, the capital needs of the farm, and to develop ways to extend the growing season so that they can supply more healthy food to families. They continue to increase their livestock and work to incorporate them into their business plan. They also hope to be able to find new ways to get healthy food to underprivileged families.

In 2016 Sub Edge Farm was able to show a positive balance sheet. The total gross income for the farm was \$181,257. Expenditures totaled \$158,710. Therefore a net income of \$22,574 was realized. A more detailed income and expenditure can be found in the Sub Edge 2106 Annual Report (attached).

2016 Sub Edge Farm Income and Expenditures

Income	Amount
CSA	101,250
Farm Shop	45,225
Wholesale	12,380
Other Sales	1,295
Total Income:	160,150
Cost of Goods Sold	22,921
Gross Sales:	\$137,229
Grants	\$3,420.00
Conservation Payments	\$40,608.00
Gross Income	\$181,257.00
Expense	Amount
Advertising	1,418.00
Animal Feed	6,165.00
Animals & Livestock	8,629.00
Auto	556.00
Bank Charges	505.00
Car and Truck Expenses	3,443.00
Conservation Expenses	45,608.00
Fencing	2,043.00

Fertilizers and Lime	3,212.00
Greenhouse Supplies	1,080.00
Insurance	3,520.00
Irrigation	10,936.00
Labor Hired	31,300.00
Livestock Processing	3,740.00
Office Expenses	416.00
Portable Toilets	1,603.00
Seeds & Plants	12,463.00
Shipping & Delivery	685.00
Subcontractors	5,540.00
Supplies & Materials	2,832.00
Taxes & Licenses	571.00
Tractors & Equipment	10,115
Utilities	2,330.00
Total Expenses:	\$158,710.00
Net Income	\$22,547.00