

PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES

**January 16, 2018
8:00 p.m.**

South Windsor Town Council

**PURPOSE: To receive citizen input on an Amendment to Ordinance #141,
Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Commission**

Mayor Anwar called the Public Hearing to order at 8:00 p.m.; and requested that the Clerk of the Council read the call of the meeting (a copy of which is attached hereto, **Exhibit A**). There were approximately twenty-five (25) people present in the audience.

Mayor Anwar asked if there was anyone from the public that would like to speak.

Mrs. Stephanie Dexter came before the Council to read a letter from Roy Normen into the record, as shown in attached **Exhibit B**.

Mr. Robert Dickinson, 19 Birch Road came forward and stated that he supports this ordinance with the stated makeup of the Commission. In order to stay in conformance with Roberts Rules of Order, the members could be decreased and the alternates could be increased.

Mr. Toby Lewis, 32 Linda Lane came forward and stated that he is opposed to changing a quorum. This would set a precedence for other committees.

Mr. Herb Asplund, 56 Tumblebrook Drive stated that this Commission has six meetings per year, and feels the quorum should not be changed. If there is a problem with attendance, the Chair should contact the party that member is affiliated with to fix this issue. The membership could be dropped to 10 with 2 alternates.

Mr. Joseph Kennedy, 81 Alison Drive and the Chair of the Agricultural Land and Preservation Advisory Commission. The definition of a quorum from Webster Dictionary is as follows: the number of members of an assembly that must be present to make a meeting official. A roundtable will be held on Monday, January 29th at 7:00 p.m. to discuss these types of issues. Mr. Kennedy stated that the Commission has been doing a lot of work and an adjustment in the quorum would be beneficial to the Commission.

Mayor Anwar asked for a Straw Vote, the results of which were as follows:

Those supporting the Amendments to Ordinance #141, Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Commission: 5

Those opposed to the Amendments to Ordinance #141, Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Commission: 10

The public hearing was closed at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Deborah W. Reid
Clerk of the Council

**Public Hearing Notice – Exhibit A
Letter – Exhibit B**



OFFICE
OF THE
TOWN COUNCIL

Town of South Windsor

1540 SULLIVAN AVENUE • SOUTH WINDSOR, CT 06074-2786

AREA CODE 860/644-2511

FAX 860/644-3781

TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE JOURNAL INQUIRER

January 9, 2018

LEGAL AD

TOWN OF SOUTH WINDSOR

Notice is hereby given that the South Windsor Town Council has set Tuesday, January 16, 2018, at 8:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers of the South Windsor Town Hall, 1540 Sullivan Avenue, South Windsor, Connecticut as the time and place for a Public Hearing to receive citizen input on an Amendment to Ordinance #141, Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Commission, a copy of which is on file in the Office of the Town Clerk.

Dated at South Windsor, Connecticut this 5th day of January 2018.

Attested to by:

Deborah W. Reid
Deborah W. Reid
Clerk of the Council

PUBLIC NOTICE

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Dated at South Windsor, Connecticut this 5th day of January 2018.

Attested to by: Deborah W. Reid
Clerk of the Council

Journal Inquirer
January 9, 2018

Roy C. J. Normen

158 Homestead Drive, South Windsor, CT 06074 Tel. 860-644-9029 roycjnor@aol.com

January 16, 2017

South Windsor Town Council Members

I regret I cannot attend the public hearing on the changes proposed for the SWALPC ordinance so I am submitting my comments in writing.

I served as Council Liaison to SWALPC for several years when I served on the Town Council so I am familiar with the Commission and its purpose. One of the important features of the commission was the appointment of individuals with experience and expertise that could aid in open space land acquisition and conservation. Dropping the representation from the Soil and Water Conservation District which has now been restructured into regional organization should not be an issue since we now have a staff position with that expertise and connections to those resources.

Changing the number of farm representatives is an issue. They are important advocates. They know the "business. There should be no shortage of prospective members given the large number of property owners who are registered and qualify for benefits under Act 490. They have an interest in land conservation.

Regarding the number and the quorum, it would be wrong to reduce the quorum to less than a majority plus one. As it is even with this number, there can be as few as three or four who could take action in the absence of the total complement of members of 10 or 12.

When I was on the Council we establish a practice of receiving quarterly reports on attendance of the various boards and commissions. The purpose was to ensure that members are regularly attending. If not then they were contacted to determine their interest in continuing or be subject to being replaced. This report was also sent to the political parties for them to monitor attendance of those that they had nominated so that they could take action. From my personal experience this is being done. It sometimes takes a little time. In one case I personally delivered a letter of resignation to have signed.

If SWALPC is having a problem lets solve it by getting the political parties to take action rather than changing the ordinance. Changing the ordinance is not a good fix.

