



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
CONNECTICUT MARKETING AUTHORITY**



Steven K. Reviczky
Chairman

Linda Piotrowicz
Executive Director

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 16, 2018
CMA Offices, Building A, 101 Reserve Road, Hartford, CT 06114**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Steven Reviczky, Bruce Benedict, David Morse, Frank Musto (by phone), Jennifer Parmelee, Joseph Ruffini (by phone).

MEMBERS ABSENT: Randall Fiveash, Alexis Gazy.

ALSO PRESENT: Staff from the Connecticut Department of Agriculture (DoAg)/Connecticut Marketing Authority (CMA).

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Steven Reviczky called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: David Morse moved to accept the November 21, 2017, minutes. Bruce Benedict seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Chairman Reviczky reported on the state budget, explaining there is a deficit and Governor Malloy's proposed budget makes additional cuts to DoAg.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Executive Director Piotrowicz reported on income and expenses, the Short Term Investment Fund, and staffing matters, including the recent vacancy of the Maintainer 1 position, which has been approved for refilling. She also reported on three recent breaks in the water main serving the fire suppression system.

LEASES/AGREEMENTS: Chairman Reviczky reported he just learned the contract with the outside attorney to prepare and execute new leases had been fully executed. He spoke to the attorney and she will begin working on the project later this month after fulfilling existing obligations. Once the leases have been prepared, they need to be approved by the State Properties Review Board and then approved as to form by the Office of the Attorney General. A discussion ensued.

Commissioner Reviczky explained that incoming lessees have parking needs beyond what will be included in their stall leases. CMA needs to examine those parking needs along with the appraisal findings for parking, and determine how to proceed. He also explained tenant needs will have an effect on the farmers' market operations and on DMV testing, which will be relocated to another site. A discussion followed.

Chairman reported that the SweetLife Cash and Carry land lease holder has notified the agency that they wish to sell the business and transfer the land lease. DoAg is looking into the lease terms and what is and is not permissible, seeking guidance from the Office of the Attorney General and sister agencies. CMA will need to consider the request to assign the lease along with any other options that may exist regarding that lease. A discussion followed with consensus that CMA should seek outside legal counsel.

RAILROAD: Chairman Reviczky and Director Piotrowicz reported on recent and needed railroad repair and the costs for those repairs compared to the revenues received from the track use. A discussion ensued.

FARMERS' MARKET: Chairman Reviczky reiterated that the incoming new tenants and their parking needs will affect farmers' market operations. He exited the meeting at 11:32 a.m. A discussion ensued.



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David Morse made a motion to send a letter to 2017 farmers' market vendors inviting them to a meeting to discuss changes occurring at the Regional Market. The letter and meeting should explain flexibility will be needed in stall assignments (including the possibility a vendor will have to change stalls during the season), there may be a possible limitation on the number of farmers' market stalls any one vendor may be assigned, and there may be a potential restriction on Sunday farmers' market sales hours. Jennifer Parmelee seconded and the motion carried unanimously without discussion.

NEXT MEETING(S): Regular meetings for 2018 are scheduled for April 11, July 11, and October 10. Special meetings may be scheduled if needed.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, David Morse moved to adjourn. Bruce Benedict seconded, and the motion carried unanimously without discussion. The meeting ended at 11:43 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: Linda Piotrowicz
February 16, 2018