I. CONVENE MEETING
Chairman Reviczky called the meeting to order at approximately 1:10 p.m. Also in attendance were council members Gregory Weidemann, Shelly Oechsler, James Guida and Jason Hoagland. Member Jamie Jones participated by phone.

Council members Allyn Brown, III, George Hindinger, Herb Holden, Jr., Henry Talmage, Michael Keilty and Kevin Sullivan were absent.

Staff from the Connecticut Department of Agriculture also were present.

II. REMARKS FROM CHAIR
Commissioner Reviczky gave updates on the agency budget and legislative package for the upcoming session, and discussed the agency’s planned response to a potential incidence of Avian Influenza in Connecticut, and its farmland preservation efforts that resulted in 15 farms being protected in 2015.

He also introduced Steve Jensen, the agency’s Public Information Officer, who will be staffing the council and helping to prepare its annual report.

III. GROW CONNECTICUT FARMS NEXT STEPS
Without a quorum present, members had an informal discussion about the council’s goals for 2016, as well as topics including the growing of industrial hemp and hops in Connecticut.

IV. NEXT COUNCIL MEETING(S)
- Tuesday, April 12, 2016, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, July 12, 2016, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, October 11, 2016, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

V. ADJOURNMENT
There was no further business and the meeting adjourned at approximately 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Steve Jensen
January 13, 2016