

PRESS RELEASE

East Haddam's Center for Community Agriculture Food Processing Plans on Hold

For Immediate Release

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Press Contact: Mark Walter, First Selectman, phone 860-873-5021

East Haddam, CT – First Selectman, Mark Walter has stated that plans for building a barn-style education facility to house a food processing incubator kitchen at the Center for Community Agriculture, have been put on hold. The next public informational forum on this project will be held at the High School Auditorium in late September. A date will be chosen once school is back in session next week.

The agricultural economic development municipal project on town-owned land, previously owned by the Harris family, received a \$431,200 STEAP grant (Small Town Economic Assistance Program) in 2013. The Town of East Haddam planned to maintain ownership of the land and operate the facilities with a net-zero operating budget, including the lease of a shared small business incubator kitchen and storage space. The Town may apply for alternate uses of the STEAP grant money, provided the goals and outcomes remain consistent with the original application.

Food processing is one part of the Center for Community Agriculture municipal project to encourage economic development by following the Town's Plan of Conservation and Development to grow jobs and the grand list while protecting natural resources. Garden plots, other organic farming operations, and a farm incubator business program are also included.

Information about the upcoming public informational forum and continued updates about this project will be posted on the municipal website. We look forward answering the public's questions about this project, providing a more complete understanding of the town's project to date, and an open dialog about possible modifications.

For more information visit www.easthaddam.org/Center-for-Community-Agriculture/ or contact the East Haddam First Selectman's office at admin@easthaddam.org or call 860-873-5021.

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