



**TOWN OF WINSLOW
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION MEETING**

St Joseph's Nature Sanctuary 80 Garland Rd

January 4, 2024 at 11:00 a.m.

Meeting was called to order at 11:05 AM

Attendance: Chair; Kate Newkirk, Secretary; Judy Mathiau, Members; Mike Heavener, Rocky Gravel, Sally Hardwood.

Also Present: Administrative Assistant Vanessa Cote, Parks and Rec Liaison Amanda McCaslin, Council Member Ray Caron.

Absent: Members; Steve Russell, and Elery Keene.

Secretary's Report:

1. Minutes of December 7, 2023 – Rocky moved to accept the minutes as written, second by Sally, all in favor.

Election of Chair and Secretary

Rocky motioned to elect Kate Newkirk as Chair; second by Sally, vote unanimous. Rocky motioned for Mike Heavener to be Vice Chair; Second by Sally, vote unanimous. Rocky motioned to make Vanessa Cote the Secretary; Second by Sally, vote unanimous.

Vacancy – Jasmine Gregory

Judy mentioned that Jasmine Gregory has stepped down from her position so there is a vacancy on the board. Peter Beringer is interested in the position but is currently waiting for approval from his job to ensure it will not interfere with his work.

Term Expirations –

The Commission discussed the expiring terms and believed that initially, these were staggering terms so there is a rotation in place of 2 members expiring each year, apart from 3 members expiring certain years.

Judy will research the term expirations and report back.

Old Business:

1. Town Forest
 - a. Game Cams – have not been checked due to the recent storms. Amanda and Rocky plan to walk the trails to see the damage that has been done.
 - b. Canopy Grant – parking lot and sign

Amanda is working on the grant paperwork and getting the amounts needed to update the parking lot and sign. Paul will have a quote for the parking lot by the end of January. Discussion included trail markers and having Jeff West make benches. The grant will match up to \$12,000 making a total possible grant of \$24,000.

2. Maine Farmland Trust – Presentation by Kate update
No new information is available, Kate is waiting for their brochure to be available which will include VMFSP.
3. Fort Halifax Subcommittee -
Fort Halifax was badly affected by the storm on December 23rd, 2023. Currently working on getting the Fort cleaned and assessing damages. Paul plans to bill FEMA after the ground has been cleaned up around the Fort. Flood Insurance should cover the cost of getting new buildings. Amanda will work on putting a committee together and potentially redesigning the overall layout of the area. The Commission discussed combining Fort Halifax Days and the Fall Festival since the fort will not be ready to use when Fort Halifax Days is typically held. Organization for this combined event would begin in February. Amanda and Mike will report back to the Commission.
4. Council Presentation – date?
The Commission discussed what council meeting would be best to do the presentation at, and ultimately decided on presenting at the February 12th, 2024, meeting. Amanda will be working with Kate on creating the overall presentation and brochures. The Committees will plan to request \$1,800 for Fort Halifax Days and \$700 for the Fall Festival.

New Business:

1. Agricultural Show
 - a. Date, Time, Update.
Will happen January 9th, 10th, and 11th of 2024.
 - b. Small Woodlot Owners Presentation Update – Rocky
January 10th will be the Small Woodlots Owners Presentation where there will also be an online auction.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:10 PM

The next meeting will be held on February 1st, 2024, at the Winslow Library at 11 AM.