



**TOWN OF WINSLOW  
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION MEETING**

**Winslow Town Office Conference Room (114 Benton Avenue)**

**March 6th, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.**

**The meeting was called to order at 10:07 am**

**Attendance**

Chairwoman Kate Newkirk, Members; Mike Heavener, Rocky Gravel, Sally Harwood, Peter Beringer, Secretary Vanessa Cote, Assessor Judy Mathiau.

Absent – Amanda McCaslin, Steve Russell, Elery Keene

**Secretary's Report:**

1. Minutes of January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – Judy motions to accept the minutes as written; Rocky seconds the motion. Motion passes 4-1, with Peter abstaining from voting.

**Old Business:**

Town Forest –

Rocky was not able to get his questions answered regarding the grant so he and Amanda will be reaching out to get those questions answered. They don't think the parking lot will be covered by the grant, so they are looking at having the grant cover the sign. Paul Fongemie and his crew cleared the trees out of the parking lot area, there is still about 50 feet that would be nice to see cleared. Moving forward we still need to add stumps, gravel, and a kiosk to the area with the future plan of adding a sap house someday that the grant would cover. Rocky is unsure of the due date for Project Canopy but believes it is due in May. Peter has given the grant workshop previously, so he has some experience and is willing to assist. Rocky will plan to touch base with him. Rocky questioned how we could fund the project if we do not receive the grant, Judy mentioned we have one TIF account includes recreational trails. Rocky mentioned that we do have \$31,000 in the timber account with another 10 years until the next harvest. Kate says that no one has harvested the back half of the area, just the front area near Albion Road.

Game Cameras

Amanda was absent and was meant to contact Jasmine about the game cameras.

Maine Farmland Trust-

Kate was contacted by the Maine Farmland Trust to present at an upcoming webinar series. They have not given any updates regarding the program previously scheduled for December. Judy will also be participating in the webinar series as a panelist, to discuss the Voluntary Farm Support Programs



### Sisters of Saint Joseph Sanctuary

The group is diminishing in numbers but they're keeping their doors open to the public. Tower Gardening will begin on the 23<sup>rd</sup> for anyone interested.

### **New Business:**

The Agricultural Commission Facebook page has minimal information on it, Amanda and Vanessa will plan to bring the page up to date as well as keep our Town website up to date. Some ideas are to add photos, create links to Fort Halifax and the Town Forest, possibly create a Town Forest page, upload all agendas and minutes, and ask for volunteers when applicable.

### **Zoom –**

Can members attend meetings via Zoom? If so, does the link need be available to the public? Vanessa will plan to get the answer for the Agriculture Commission.

Decision to have future meetings held on the first Wednesday of each month at 10am. The next meeting will be held on April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10 am.

### **Stage Committee – Mike Heavener**

Ella Bowman is planning to meet with a representative from the state regarding the grant for the stage. Insurance is giving \$25,000 to be shared between repairing the public works building and repairing the stage.

Rocky motions to adjourn; Judy seconds. Unanimous vote to adjourn at 11:02pm.

Respectfully Submitted by;

Vanessa Cote, Secretary