



**TOWN OF WINSLOW
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION MEETING**

Wednesday April 3, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

Saint Joseph's Nature Sanctuary, 80 Garland Road, Winslow, ME

Meeting was called to order at 10:07 a.m.

Attendance: Chair Kate Newkirk, Secretary Vanessa Cote; Members Rocky Gravel, Peter Beringer, Sally Harwood and Steve Russell. Parks and Rec Amanda McCaslin

Absent: Judy Mathiau, Mike Heavener, and Elery Keene.

Secretary's Report:

Minutes of March 6th, 2024

Rocky moves to accept the minutes as written; Sally seconds the motion. All vote in favor.

Old Business:

Town Forest – Grant due dates and needs

The Canopy Grant does not cover a parking lot, we can try to get the welcome center covered by the grant but the preference would be to get a parking lot. A new parking lot would cost \$39,000. This grant can be applied for yearly.

Amanda plans to look into TIF money to possibly cover the parking lot.

Other members will investigate getting donations to cut down on the cost of making the parking lot.

Land conservation funds are available, but they are very strict and may not apply to this project.



Game Camera Update

Amanda has been unable to connect with Jasmine to change the game cameras.

Vanessa will work on getting the photos from the cameras and posting them to the website.

SJNS update

Programs are still going on, the next upcoming program will be held on April 20th, 2024 at 10am and will go over tower gardens. They are hoping to open the Joseph House around May 1st, 2024.

Festival Update

The meeting was rescheduled for April 11th, 2024 due to the incoming storm.

Social Media Presence

Put NRCS on website – link to help with clean up from storm.

Make a link to all partners of the Agriculture Commission.

Add a link to the presentations Kate and Judy are doing.

Community Gardens

Half of the beds have been rented out so far, there is the possibility to add more beds if needed. There are motion detection lights, but adding a fence or camera are other options to consider for security. The Commission will look into adding raised beds and including sponsored beds for others to use.

Waterville created “Edible Waterville” which is something Winslow could look further into implementing.

New Business:

Maine Farmland Trust

April 11th 10:00 am – Winslow Ag Commission Presentation by Kate

May 2nd 1:30pm - VMFSP by Judy



Ag Commission Remote Participation Policy

Vanessa distributed the policy for review.

Rocky moves to accept the policy as written, Steve second the motion. All members vote in favor.

Future Meetings

The Commission will plan to meet at the Town Forest for the May meeting, the following June meeting will be held at the Sisters of Saint Joseph's Sanctuary, moving forward from there all meetings will be held at the Town Office in the Conference Room.

Steve motions to adjourn the meeting at 11:14 a.m.; Kate seconds the motion. All vote in favor

Respectfully Submitted By

Vanessa Cote, Secretary