



TOWN OF WINSLOW AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION MEETING

Minutes of August 11, 2022

Present: Members Rocky Gravel, Michael Heavener, Elery Keene, Sally Harwood, Chair Kate Newkirk, and Secretary Judy Mathiau.

Absent: Members Jasmine Gregory, Steve Russell, Parks and Rec Director Amanda McCaslin and Town Manager Erica LaCroix.

Also Present: Kaitlyn Philbrick, Administrative Assistant

Meeting called to order at 10:03 a.m.

Secretary's Report

Sally moved to approve the minutes of July 7, 2022 as written, seconded by Rocky, all in favor.

Old Business

- 1. Town Forest-** Rocky reported the following:
 - Logging is complete, including additional work on the red pines to allow better growth.
 - William Cole was the selected bidder for clearing a 1 mile trail. This has been completed.
 - There are leftover oak logs that will be put to use at a later date.
 - Parking Lot is a work in progress.
 - Game cameras have not been installed but will be done within the next month. Amanda will be overseeing the photos and videos.
 - Public Works agreed to demolish the old house, but we will need to dispose.
 - Amanda attended training that will allow the Town to apply for grants.
 - Plans for a future sugar house.
 - Rocky will create a draft form for interested hunters to acquire a permit from the Town to hunt in the forest. Criteria will be necessary. Perhaps a lottery for specific days and/or times.
- 2. 80 Garland Road Property:** Sally reported the following:
 - The Mid-Maine Permaculture Group held a workshop at the property titled "Lasagna Mulching".
 - They are still planning to erect a screen type building for future meetings or workshops. \$8,600 has been raised so far.
 - Meetings planned for this winter will be offered via ZOOM.
 - Rocky will be bush hogging 2 acres at the property today.
- 3. VMFSP – Voluntary Municipal Farm Support Program.** There was a discussion as to whether we should promote this program again. Judy said that she has spoken with a few farmers, but they are unwilling to commit to the 20-year agreement. Judy then suggested that perhaps a

workshop could be held to educate the public on what the Agriculture Commission has been doing and what they are planning and have discussions with them about current issues.

The discussion morphed into the idea of holding a bigger event next Spring, at an outdoor location. Several ideas were considered and will be discussed at our next meeting, including the following suggestions:

- Date and time – Weekend day in April or May.
- Location - Hapworth Farm or Fort Halifax Park.
- Content – Meet and greet with the AG Commission, History of Farming in Winslow, Map showing local farm stands, break out sessions on PFAS, VMFSP, Farmland Program, Best Agricultural Practices, MOFGA, UMO, Dept of Agriculture, Maine Farmland Trust, Petting Zoo, Food trucks, Town Forest Presentation, Community Gardens, 80 Garland Road, Permaculture Group.

New Business

1. **Charter Amendment** – the Commission members recommended a change to the current Charter (Ordinance No 4-2014.) Procedures. Number 1.

1. The group ~~should~~ shall elect a chair and a secretary at its first meeting each calendar year and agree to a committee structure and process for decision-making.

Judy mentioned that the Commission should consider electing a new secretary in 2023 as a transition for her retirement date of 2025.

2. **PFAS Education** – Elery suggested that the public be more aware of the consequences of PFAS. He recommended an educational outreach or ordinance to address the concerns and future regulations. Kaitlyn said that her mother, Amanda Smith, is the Director of the Waste Water Department in Bangor and may be willing to discuss this with the group as a first step. The Commission agreed that they would like to invite her to the next meeting. Kaitlyn will ask her.

Next meeting will be September 8, 2022 at 10:00 in the council chambers.

Rocky made a motion to adjourn at 11:30 a.m., Sally seconded, all in favor..

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda McCaslin