



TOWN OF WINSLOW AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION MEETING

Minutes of September 8, 2022

Present: Members Rocky Gravel, Jasmine Gregory, Sally Harwood, Michael Heavener, Steve Russell , Chair Kate Newkirk, and Secretary Judy Mathiau. Liaisons - Parks and Rec Director Amanda McCaslin and Town Manager Erica LaCroix.

Absent: Member Elery Keene

Also Present: Amanda Smith, guest speaker and Winslow resident Severn Towl

Meeting called to order at 10:05 a.m.

Secretary's Report

Steve moved to approve the minutes of August 11, 2022 as written, seconded by Jasmine, all in favor.

Guest Speaker

Amanda Smith, Director of Water Quality in Bangor, and Member of the Government Affairs Committee was welcomed to the meeting by the members and began to speak on PFAS. She summarized the concerns that we are facing including the need to reduce the type of material being manufactured, addressing the contaminants found in existing landfills and educating the public on the worldwide increase in carbon emissions because of PFAS.

Other key points were made:

- Consumer needs for a better product has driven the addition of enhanced elements to material over the years.
- Ultimate solutions to reducing PFAS is steered by science.
- Rules are becoming more stringent, but enforcement is lacking.
- Water Quality is tested for toxicity and regulated based on Human Health Criteria
- Solid waste facilities can no longer compost biosolids
- Landfills have created an increase in carbon emissions which effect climate change
- The use of PFAS have been banned in the U.S., however, certain counties that import material have no ban.

Old Business

1. Town Forest-

- a. Hunter Permit – Rocky spoke with Game Warden Steve Couture who suggested that we wait a year or two before implementing a permit to hunt at the forest. However, he does suggest regulations and rules be posted on site. Perhaps a flier be made available. The group also considered posting “Access by Permission Only” and Amanda said she would be the contact person. Amanda also said that the “Certified Forest” signs need to be posted as well.

Rocky moved to post signs at the forest access points, stating “Hunting by Permission Only”, with Amanda as contact, seconded by Mike, all in favor.

- b. House Demolish – Rocky is waiting for a quote from Public Works for their time spend demolishing the old house and removing debris, but Rocky believes we can do this with a couple dumpsters. He will investigate it.
- c. Parking Lot – Paul was going to touch base with the State.
- d. Canopy Training – Amanda attended, which allows the AG Commission to apply for grants for the Town Forest.
- e. Game Cameras – Jasmine offered to pick up the cameras and place at the forest.
- f. Benches – Rocky took leftover logs to Leo Bourgoin, to have milled and later constructed as benches. He also said that he would like to haul out a large pine log, to be milled for a future sugar house or shelter. Amanda said she would contact the Tech Center for volunteers to build picnic tables.
- g. Other points made were the need for donors and the possibility of paving a few trails for handicap access. Erica said that there are TIF funds that may be used towards that project.

The Committee is tasked with bringing ideas to the next meeting on Town Forest enhancements.

- 2. **80 Garland Road Property** – Sally reported that they are still waiting for quotes to build the screen house/gazebo. They have raised \$8,600 in fund raising. Kate O’Halloran, who works for *LifeFlight*, will volunteer her time to consult with the Sisters’ Group on educating them in fund raising.
- 3. **Agriculture Day Festivity** - Tabled

New Business

- 1. **KVCOG/AG Education** – Kate said that she spoke with a lady from KVCOG and has been asked to promote agriculture in the classroom. Steve said that schools currently have the opportunity to attend training so that they can teach it in the classroom. UMO recently held a training. The group would like to discuss this at next month’s meeting.
- 2. **Best Practices – AG Guide** – Judy will research ideas for the next meeting.

Steve asked that we add an item under New Business next month, to talk about the possibility of having the shores of the Sebasticook River tested again for chromium. This was done previously by Unity College students, just after the dam was removed.

Next meeting will be October 6, 2022 at 10:00 in the council chambers.

Rocky made a motion to adjourn at 11:40 a.m., Sally seconded, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Mathiau