



## **TOWN OF WINSLOW AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION MEETING Minutes of February 12, 2021**

### **Via ZOOM**

**Present:** Chair Kate Newkirk; Secretary Judy Mathiau; Members; Sally Harwood, Amanda McCaslin, Rocky Gravel, Mike Heavener Elery Keene

**Absent:** Member Steve Russell

**Also Present:** Council Chair Ray Caron, Code Officer Adam Bradstreet and Resident Jasmine Gregory

**The Meeting opened at 10:06 a.m.**

**Secretary's Report: Minutes of January 15, 2021 – Rocky moved to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Sally, all in favor.**

### **Old Business:**

1. Town Forest Ordinance – Amanda reported that the Ordinance has been reviewed by MMA and now Erica LaCroix will have attorney Bill Lee review it before the March Council meeting for a vote to adopt.
2. Canopy Grant – Amanda attended the workshop on February 3, 2021 and summarized for the group regarding bullet items to consider, including the following:
  - Approximately \$100,000 available with \$8,000 max for planting and maintenance and \$10,000 max for planning and education
  - 50/50 Matching Grant
  - Timeline of project is 12-18 months
  - Reimbursement Funding
  - Preface for Actively Managed Communities (should fit these qualifications or working toward) - Professional Staff, Community Forestry Advocate, Tree Ordinance or Policies, Tree Inventory, Up to Date Community Forestry Management Plan
  - For Application Form - Tell our story, Amount of Project Canopy Funds Requested, Local Match (money/in kind/volunteer hours, Total Project Cost, 3-year Maintenance Plan, Project Map, Letters of Support (expand)

- Any changes in funding sources, project changes, unanticipated requirements need to be approved do not do and then ask for forgiveness.

The Commission agreed to invite District Forester Allysa Gregory and Forester Harold Burnett to the March meeting. Mike suggested that the forest is perhaps ready for a light cutting this fall.

**Motion: Kate moved to suspend the Canopy Grant Application to 2022, seconded by Sally, all in favor.**

3. Maple Ridge Road Update – A Purchase and Sale Agreement is in the process, involving Maine Farmland Trust and Town Manager Erica LaCroix along with the Clarks, the awarded bidders.
4. Flying Pigs Farm Update – Judy told the group that she has drafted the Agricultural Conservation Easement using Windham’s template, as suggested by the Maine Dept of Agriculture and the Farm Support Arrangement document. Both documents have been reviewed by Town Attorney Bill Lee and he has found them satisfactory. Both documents have been forwarded to Town Manager Erica LaCroix, for the parties to sign.

**New Business:**

1. Newsletter – Judy reported that the first AG newsletter was mailed to 50 recipients and she would like to continue to produce a mailing quarterly and that she would like to include a piece on the Community Cupboard’s needs, and perhaps an interview with a farmer. The Commission agreed. The following ideas were also discussed for future topics:
  - Food Waste Recycling Program
  - Community Gardens
  - Johnny Selected Seeds/Agway
  - Hapworth and/or Wheeler Interviews

Judy also suggested that the AG Commission have their own budget line for expenses and revenues (grants). She would also like to see the AG Commission have their own “page” on the Town website.

2. Carbon Proposal – Peter Garrett requested that the AG Commission and the Town Council support a *Climate Resolution*. He will be presenting on this subject via ZOOM on February 26<sup>th</sup> for those interested.

Discussion continued as to whether this was a position for the AG Commission to take. Mike did not believe that as a commission, we are responsible to do so. Everyone agreed.

3. Marijuana Harvest – Code Officer Adam Bradstreet and Council Chair Ray Caron were present to seek an opinion on whether marijuana cultivation could be allowed in a Low-Density District. A taxpayer in low density zoning, recently approached the Council to

request this change, because he would like to do this on his farm on the Cushman Road. Currently, only the Mixed-Use District allows this. This request will be brought to the next Planning Board and Adam suggested that a member of the AG Commission be present. The Commission did agree that cultivation of marijuana is agricultural.

4. Sewer Sludge – Elery asked that this subject be discussed at this meeting, based on a recent article in the newspaper about a Fairfield Farm improperly spreading sludge. Adam said that DEP is looking into this type of sludge and will start testing. There are no known farms in Winslow practicing the spread of sewer sludge.
5. New AG Member – Jasmine Gregory, resident of Winslow, has requested to join the AG Commission. She will file an application with the Town Clerk. Amanda will step down as member and continue as Parks and Rec liaison, to satisfy the 7 member restriction.

**Next meeting is March 12, 2021 at 10 a.m. via ZOOM – The Commission agreed to add the following to the next agenda:**

- **Food Waste Recycling Program**
- **AG Commission Ordinance Overview**
- **Invite Harold Burnett and Allysa Gregory**

Respectfully Submitted by

Judy Mathiau, Secretary