



TOWN OF WINSLOW AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION MEETING Minutes of January 15, 2021

Via ZOOM

Present: Chair Kate Newkirk; Secretary Judy Mathiau; Members; Sally Harwood, Amanda McCaslin, Rocky Gravel, Steve Russell

Absent: Members: Members Mike Heavener Elery Keene,

The Meeting opened at 1:05 p.m.

Secretary's Report: Minutes of December 22, 2020 – Amanda moved to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Sally, all in favor.

Old Business:

1. Town Forest Ordinance – Mike Heavener created a draft ordinance which was distributed to members earlier. The draft will be forwarded to Erica, then MMA Legal. Rocky will then submit to the Council for their February meeting.

Amanda moved to accept the draft ordinance as written and she will forward to Erica, seconded by Rocky, all in favor.

2. Community Gardens - Amanda reported that of the 30 total beds located at Dallaire Street, she has issued 8 permits at \$10 each. She has reached out to those who used the gardens last year and expects repeat customers. A few of these will be planting produce for the Community Cupboard.
3. Edible Gardens Project - Kate revised the proposal to the University of Maine Cooperative Extension, which she distributed earlier. (Master Gardener Volunteer). A few locations were suggested for these gardens including the Clinton Ave playground, Town Gazebo, Fort Halifax Park, Dallaire Street and in front of the Fire Station. A discussion was held regarding the need for soil testing where the gardens would be placed. During this meeting, Rocky reached out to a colleague at Northeast Labs. They do test soils for \$600 per test, but not forever chemicals. He will check to see if they may donate towards this. Kate will also reach out to the State Lab for guidance.

Rocky said that he would be willing to offer his services through his business *Evergreen Yard Care* for any hardscape work. Public Works should also be able to contribute, as well as Parks and Rec.

Rocky moved to allow Kate Newkirk to make appropriate changes to the Application for Request of a Master Gardener, and to send to the Cooperative Extension, seconded by Sally, all in favor.

New Business:

1. Canopy Grant – Amanda will attend the workshop on February 3, 2021.

Discussion continued regarding the need to mark the forest boundaries. Amanda reached out to Harold from Two Tree Forestry and was told that the cost to do so would be estimated as follows:

- a) eastern line south of Albion Road – 1.22 miles \$850
- b) eastern line north of Albion Road – 2.6 miles \$1,800
- c) jut out area – 2.8 miles \$1,600
- d) western line appears all set

It is the hope of the commission to utilize the existing stumpage account to finance this project. Harold also said that he may be able to save the town money by combining our project with other forests who also need the same work done.

Rocky moved to hire Harold to mark the above-mentioned boundaries, using the stumpage account, at Erica's approval, seconded by Sally, all in favor.

Amanda will make this request to Erica.

2. Maple Ridge Road Easement Process – Kate said that she was included in an email thread between Erica and Chris Franklin of MFT. Steve asked that Kate please share the conversation with the AG Commission. There are issues with the occupancy requirement of the MFT easement. A possible solution may be to lease to the farmer until they are able to occupy. Steve also suggested the town attorney be involved in the conversation, because this transaction needs to be as smooth as possible.

Kate will follow up with Erica and report back to the commission.

3. VMFSP –

a) Sally wondered if we should promote the program again. Judy suggested a mailing to our current farmers highlighting the most recent approval of the Wheeler Farm into the program. Judy will create a document and send out to the commission for review. Other

suggestions included video clips of the farmers. (Amanda said her son is very capable of doing this). Perhaps the technical college would assist in creating a website page for future use by residents.

b) Wheeler Farm – Judy will contact Erica to begin the Easement document for the Wheeler Farm VMFSP. She will e-mail a copy of the Hapworth easement for reference and will include the AG Commission in the email.

c) Steve said that the Council will need to reappoint both him and Rocky, switching roles as citizen and as council member. Rocky will request this to Erica.

Sally moved to adjourn at 2:26 p.m., seconded by Amanda, all in favor.

Next meeting is February 12, 2021 at 10 a.m. via ZOOM – The Commission agreed to meet every second Thursday at 10 a.m. as needed.

Respectfully Submitted by

Judy Mathiau, Secretary