



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

Via ZOOM

Present: Chair Kate Newkirk; Secretary Judy Mathiau; Members; Sally Harwood, Jasmine Gregory, Rocky Gravel, Mike Heavener, Steve Russell

Absent: Member Elery Keene

Also Present: Parks and Rec Director Amanda McCaslin, Town Manager Erica LaCroix

The Meeting opened at 10:00 a.m.

Secretary's Report: Minutes of February 12, 2021 – Rocky moved to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Sally, all in favor.

Old Business:

1. Town Forest – Amanda reported that Harold Burnett, forester and Alyssa Gregory, district State Forester may be able to meet with the Commission in April or May. Alyssa would like to visit the forest on-site. Amanda will set that up for later this month and any members may come as well.

Members will also review the current management plan and provide comments to Amanda before the next AG Meeting.

Rocky suggested that the Town join SWOAM (Small Woodlot Owners Association of Maine) and everyone agreed, however we will need council approval to do so. Rocky will send the application to Amanda and she will submit our request to Erica.

Rocky moved to seek approval from the Town Council to join SWOAM, seconded by Sally, all in favor.

2. Edible Winslow – No action

3. Community Garden – Amanda said that she still only received two applications but she met recently with a few area organizations and hopes that they may make use of the beds to support the need for community food donations.

New Business:

1. Food Recycling Pilot – The UMA Mitchell Center spearheaded this project and approached the Council for support. The library is planned as a collection point, but Steve mentioned that the location may be a concern. The school already has their bins located inside and only brings the food waste outside when it is to be picked up by Agri-Cycle Energy. Tonnage requirement may also be a concern.
2. AG Ordinance – Kate requested that the members review the ordinance and submit comments to Judy before the next meeting. It was suggested that we increase the number of members, however, it was agreed that we should leave it as is. Moving forward, if a project requires outside participation then a member could simply oversee the project but seek volunteers. The Ordinance also states that all minutes and agendas be posted and made available to the PUBLIC. Judy said she would create a section on her website assessor page specific to the AG Commission.
3. Newsletter – The next newsletter will be published in late May and will include the following topics:
 - Food Waste Recycling
 - Town Forest Ordinance
 - Wheeler Farm Update
 - What's New Sidebar – VMFSP, Community Gardens, newest member
 - Future Topics – COVID Impact on farmers/Commission member profiles
4. Meeting Date – Kate suggested that the group meet every first Friday of the month rather than the second Friday. This would allow enough time to discuss and prepare for any AG items that may be on the next Council agenda.

Kate moved to set the AG Commission meetings to the first Friday of every month at 10:00 a.m., seconded by Rocky, all in favor.

Rocky moved to adjourn at 11:11 a.m., seconded by Mike, all in favor.

Next meeting is April 2, 2021 at 10 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by

Judy Mathiau, Secretary