



**TOWN OF WINSLOW AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION MEETING
Minutes of May 7, 2021
10:00 a.m.**

Via ZOOM

Present: Chair Kate Newkirk; Secretary Judy Mathiau; Members; Sally Harwood, Jasmine Gregory, Elery Keene, Rocky Gravel, Mike Heavener and Parks and Rec Director Amanda McCaslin

Also Present: Harold Burnett, *Two Trees Forestry*

Absent: Member Steve Russell

The Meeting opened at 10:05 a.m.

Secretary's Report: Minutes of April 2, 2021 – Rocky moved to accept the minutes as written, second by Sally, all in favor.

Old Business:

1. Town Forest – Harold Burnett was present to discuss and answer questions regarding the best practices for the Town Forest. Page 20 of the Forest Management Plan covers the management priorities.
 - Boundary Survey – Harold reported that the blazing of the southern and eastern borders should be completed within the month.
 - Deeded Access – this is a concern and it was suggested that the AG Commission invite the abutters to a workshop to discuss options.
 - Recreational Use – Harold said this property is not the most suitable for recreation because of the soils and lack of access. The southern 2/3 of the forest has typically been accessed via abutters but the upper section is limited.
 - Develop Loop Trail – Harold believes this could be done in the northern section, perhaps providing viewing trails of the wetlands along WILSON BROOK. Elery suggested Peter Garrett who has been involved in several local trail systems. Amanda said that she has spoken with Peter and he is not interested in participating in the creation of a trail system he is willing to offer advice.

- Wood Cutting – Harold suggested holding off for another year due to the current value of wood. The group discussed the possibility of tying in the cutting with development of the trail. We would need to visit on site during leaves off to find the best location and then make sure that the contracted logger includes specifications for creating the trail.

In summary, the group agreed to first meet with bordering landowners in a workshop setting, using the Parks and Rec Meeting Room and second, visit the forest and begin to mark trails. Harold said that if the market improves, he will contact us. Harold will also create a work agreement going forward, to cover his involvement during the development.

Amanda applied for Town Membership into the *Maine Woodlot Owners*.

Amanda said that she will contact District State Forester Alyssa Gregory, who expressed an interest in visiting the Town Forest, and she will ask Alyssa what her objective is.

Mike moved to appoint a Town Forest sub-committee made up of Rocky, Amanda and Jasmine, second by Sally, all in favor.

2. Commission Charter Amendment – Kate had recently submitted proposed amendments to the Commission for review. See Minutes of April 2, 2021.

Kate made a motion to submit the Charter amendments to the Council to be read at the June meeting, second by Mike, all in favor.

Kate will submit the draft to Town Clerk Lisa Gilliam.

3. Food Recycling Update – Amanda reported that more than 40 people attended the kick-off on EARTH DAY and when she went later in the week, 3 of the 4 bins were full.
4. Spring Newsletter – Judy will draft a newsletter based on submitted ideas.

New Business:

1. VMFSP Bi-Annual Inspection – Wayne Hapworth is due for an on-site review of eligible land and buildings. Judy will contact Wayne to set up a time and then contact the Commission.
2. Garland Road Property – Sally had previously sent out a memo regarding a property located at 80 Garland Road and owned by the *Sisters of St. Joseph*. The building is currently used in part as a residence for Sister Judy Donovan, but is also available for furthering community needs. Also available is a parcel of vacant land on the Sebec River. Judy will research the Right of Way between the building and the river parcel and will submit a map to the Commission for review.

Sally moved to set up a time to visit the Garland Road property to review opportunities for Community needs, second by Rocky, all in favor.

Mike moved to adjourn at 11:26 a.m., second by Rocky, all in favor.

Next meeting is June 10, 2021 at 10 a.m. This will include an organizational meeting to appoint a chair and secretary and to reappoint Elery Keene as Commission member.

Respectfully Submitted by

Judy Mathiau, Secretary