



**TOWN OF WINSLOW AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION MEETING
Minutes of November 4, 2021
10:00 a.m.**

Via ZOOM

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

Absent: Members: Elery Keene, Jasmine Gregory

The Meeting opened at 10:10 a.m.

Secretary's Report: Minutes of October 1, 2021 – Rocky moved to accept the minutes as written, second by Sally, all-in favor.

Old Business:

1. Sisters of St. Joseph
 - a) 80 Garland Road Group – A new Guiding Group was created and includes two AG Members, Steve and Sally, Bonnie Sammons and Barbara Russell of the Permaculture Group and two Sisters from St. Josephs, Judy and Marcel. The next two organizational meetings will be held November 9th at 6 p.m. and the 14th at 9 a.m.
 - b) Sheet Mulch – the ~~new~~ Mid Maine Permaculture Group will ~~hold~~ coordinate two skill share events at 80 Garland Road. November 20th 9 a.m. to noon, titled *How to Sheet Mulch*. Rocky will deliver leaves and Steve will deliver manure to be used for this event. November 28th at 3 p.m. titled *Nature Journaling*. Flier to come. Registration is required for these events see fliers for details.
 - c) Permaculture 101 – a three-week winter session at 80 Garland Road and hosted by the Mid-Maine Permaculture Group is being planned.

The Commission agreed that they would like to utilize their own Facebook page - Erica will set them up so that any AG Commission member can administer posts.

2. Town Forest

- a) Contract – Sale of Standing Timber. Amanda presented the draft contract for review. This will be forwarded to Town Attorney Bill Lee as well. It was agreed that our forester Harold Burnett could secure a logger before the actual signing of the contract.
- b) Permission to Hunt – a few hunters have inquired about hunting in the Town Forest. This has traditionally occurred every year, however with the creation of hiking trails and tours, there is a concern with safety. One idea is to grant hunting permits through an application process. Signage at the Forest entry would be needed also. Kiosk would be preferred.
- c) Summary Update – Amanda and Rocky have met with Ethan Bessey and Steve Couture to discuss access and recreational opportunities. It was suggested that they also contact the ~~Messalonski~~Messalonskee Trail Group. The blazing of trees along the property line has been done ~~and they are marking trees~~. Amanda will begin documenting all Forest activity through journaling for future education and record maintenance.
- d) Further discussion included what authority we have as a Commission to enforce certain guidelines and policies. Town Council should review any contractual agreements.

New Business:

1. VMFSP - One application was submitted from Klee (spelling correct?) Karter on October 1st. However, he has since removed his application because he was unable to complete two parts of the application including letters of reference and a soil type map. He may pursue this again next year.
2. Monthly Reports – Kate will begin providing a written monthly report to the Council. The AG Commission also discussed meeting with the Council periodically to update them on the Forest Status.
3. Hybrid Meetings – The Ag Commission agreed to meet in person in the future, however a virtual ZOOM option will be available as well for anyone not able to meet in person.

Mike Heavener moved to adjourn at 10:48 a.m., second by Sally Harwood, all in favor.

Next meeting is Thursday, December 2, 2021 at 10 a.m. REC Center and via ZOOM.

Respectfully Submitted by

Judith Mathiau, Secretary