



**TOWN OF WINSLOW AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION MEETING**  
**Minutes of September 3, 2021**  
**10:00 a.m.**

**Via ZOOM**

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

**Also Present:** Erica LaCroix, Town Manager

**Absent:** Member Mike Heavener

**The Meeting opened at 10:05 a.m.**

**Secretary's Report: Minutes of May 7, 2021 – Sally moved to accept the minutes as written, second by Rocky, all-in favor.**

**Old Business:**

1. Town Forest – Jasmine, Amanda and Rocky will be meeting next Friday as a sub-committee to discuss the “next steps” and will provide a report to the AG Commission at their next meeting.
  
1. Once the Sub-Committee has met, Rocky suggested that they present to the Council and to the Public. Public input is critical for the future plans of the property. Perhaps reach out to the Media to do an article and include the Mid-Maine Chamber as well.
  
2. Maple Ridge Road Status – Kate informed everyone that the bidders backed out of any agreement with Maine Farmland Trust and the Council voted to sell the property to them without a third party holding. The transfer is complete.

Erica stated that she had a conversation with Adam Bishop of MFT, to discuss moving forward with better communication between MFT and the Town. This was MFT's first time working with a municipality, and it appeared that both sides were unclear as to the process and the expectations of the agreement.

3. Sisters of St. Joseph – A few members of the Commission have been visiting the property on the Garland Road, to continue discussions with Sister Judy regarding the use of their facility for community related activities. Currently, the Permaculture group and the local Girl Scouts meet there. Kate has spoken with Linda Woods and her husband as they have both taken the *naturalist* Course and they expressed an interest in becoming involved in the future planning.

A meeting will take place at the Sisters' facility on October 6<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m. for those interested.

4. Commission Charter Amendment – Kate said that the Charter amendments were submitted to the Town Council for a first reading.

**July 12, 2021 Minutes:**

Ordinance No. 08-2021: Providing for: An Amendment to the Agricultural Commission Charter (Ordinance No. 04-2014), to include non-voting representatives from the Parks and Recreation Department and the Assessor's Office

Motion by Mr. West to approve Ordinance No. 08-2021; motion seconded by Mr. Gravel.  
Motion carried by unanimous vote of 7-0.

**New Business:**

2. VMFSP - October 1<sup>st</sup> is the deadline to apply for this program. Judy said that she knows of one farmer who may be interested but they may wait until next year to apply. Erica suggested that the Commission present to the Council on the VMFS Program in the Spring of 2022. There are new Council members who have questions as to the regulations and qualifications surrounding the program.
3. Fall Newsletter – Sally previously provided Judy with an article about the Sisters' property. Another idea is to include a write up on the Community Gardens (2021 success, possible future public share garden.) Perhaps a side bar announcing the Council Acceptance by Ordinance of the Town Forest.
4. New Web Site – Erica stated that the AG Commission will have their own independent page where everything can be posted, newsletters, agendas, minutes, photos, etc.
5. Secretary Temporary Replacement - Judy said that she would be unable to take the minutes at the October meeting and asked for someone else to do this.

**Steve Russell moved, second By Kate Newkirk to appoint Michael Heavener as temporary Secretary, all in favor.**

**Steve Russell moved to adjourn at 10:55 a.m., second by Sally Harwood, all in favor.**

**Next meeting is October 1, 2021 at 10 a.m. via ZOOM.**

Respectfully Submitted by

Judy Mathiau, Secretary