

# Woodstock Agricultural Commission

Regular Meeting, Town Hall, 1 pm, Monday, April 19, 2021

**Members Present:** Stewart Morse, Rebecca Hyde, Richard Norman, Linda Auger, Jon Hermonot, Paul Miller, Doug Young.

**Public Present:** Maura Robie, Jean Pillo, Emilie Hebert, Amy Monahan, Stuart Peaslee

**1. Call to order.** Meeting called to order at 1 pm.

**2. Seat alternates.** Linda Auger was seated.

**3. Review of minutes.** March 2020 minutes were approved.

**4. Public participation.** Jean Pillo said the Conservation Commission is hosting a presentation, April 29, at 7 pm via zoom. Topic: improving pollinators' habitat, presentation from the Xerces Society. Jean also says that the town's tax exemption for solar power could cause development competition with agricultural concerns, and urges us to support an update to the ordinance.

## **5. Old business**

**a. WOLSLAFP report.** Have been meeting via Zoom. The Youngs sold the development rights on their land on Child Hill Rd related to the Frink Farm. A couple of other projects are in the pipeline.

**b. P&Z report.** They plan some discussion of ag-related ancillary businesses.

**c. Equine tax.** There is no more town equine tax.

**d. Other**

## **6. New business**

**a. Meeting dates for year 2021:** 3rd Monday of the month as usual, 4th when there's a holiday.

**b. Budget for FY 2021 to 2022.** \$500 requested

**c. Maura Robie Little River Protection Project.** Eastern CT Conservation District (ECCD). Working on environmental issues, natural resource concerns. Source water protection project, part of a national program. Funding for farms in the watershed, implementing soil health practices with partial NRCS funding. Working on a plan update to secure future funding. Looking for best cost/benefit practices. Making an action plan for farmers. Now including hobby farms which don't produce marketable products. Substantial financial and technical help available. They request our help with communication and feedback.

**d. Woodstock Land Map Review.** Tabled.

**e. CT State Agriculture Report.** Lots of talk about solar and prime ag land, nothing definite.

**f. Agriculture Commission Elections.** No changes.

**g. New member recruiting.** Lynn Weaver resigned so there's an opening for a Republican.

**h. Celebrating Agriculture.** Tentatively Sept 25th.

**i. Other.**

**7. Announcements.**

Amy Monahan would like help producing an updated Woodstock Grown brochure. She's also interested in organizing a Woodstock-only "celebrating ag" day possibly involving a passport and/or a map.

Richard Norman reported the UCONN extension has a new animal science expert.

Stuart Peaslee reported the Economic Development Commission is ready to promote and assist economic activities.

**8. Adjourn.** The meeting adjourned at 2:28

Rebecca Hyde, Secretary

(These minutes are subject to approval at the next meeting of the full Commission.)