

Woodstock Agricultural Commission

Special Meeting, Town Hall, 1 pm, Monday, June 27, 2022

Members Present: Linda Auger, Emilie Hebert (1:04), Rebecca Hyde, Paul Miller, Stewart Morse, Richard Norman

Absent: Doug Young, Jon Hermonot

Public Present: Grace Jacobsen, Karen Swanberg, Ashley Stevens (Woodstock Land Use Administrator), Megan Hebert

1. Call to order Meeting called to order at 1:00 pm

2. Seat alternates Paul Miller and Linda Auger were seated

3. Review of minutes May 2022 minutes were approved

4. Public participation None

6. Old business

a. WOSLAPC report. Still discussing the Quarry Rd property. The abutter who wants to purchase it has only been in residence 8 months. There are some nearby landlocked parcels who need right of ways, or perhaps have them. There are legal questions to be addressed.

b. P&Z report. They've been following up on affordable housing. Echo Farm has gotten a home occupation permit for small retail so they can add craft items to their farm sales.

c. Other

7. New business

a. Other Windham County Towns Ag Commissions no report

b. Ag Zoning Ideas/Questions General discussion on the following points:

1. Is the Commission looking to restrict and regulate farm stores/stands in Town? Noted that only stands are defined in the current regs.

2. Will the process of restricting and regulating interfere with the town ordinance, the Right to Farm? Noted that this ordinance cannot overrule the P&Z Commission's decisions.

3. Does the commission see a problem with the current farm store/stands?

4. Does the commission foresee issues with farm stores/stands in the farming community?

c. State of CT Ag Report. Paul Miller had heard that CT DEEP has received 100 million for clean water for LI Sound. The upcoming CT mileage tax is still on the books for January 1st. It's based on weight. Will require monthly reporting on miles per month, it's a per mile tax. Milk trucks will be exempt only when loaded with milk.

d. Woodstock land map review Map 5781 was discussed. 197 parcels. Parts of: Rt 171, Millbrook Lane, Sprucedale Rd, East Quasset Rd, Meehan Rd, Old Hall Rd, Pulpit Rock Rd, West Rd, Plaine Hill Rd, Rt 169, Bassett Hill Rd, Bald Hill Drive, Roseland Park Rd,

Arvidson Rd, Roxbury Rd, Frog Pond Rd, Wainwright Dr, Davis Rd, Ellen Lane, Hill Cemetery Rd, Brookwood Lane, New Sweden Rd. 22 roads. 2 ag: Sprucedale and Woodstock Orchards. Oscar Lundgren village. Historic district. There is a lot of prime farmland and farming activity in this parcel, alongside business and residential development.

e. Other. No Celebrating Ag this year, will regroup next year. Paul Miller suggests looking into Vermont's Breakfast on the Farm program. Exact sticking points are not clear. Richard Norman recommends that we as a commission look into ways to promote agriculture to replace this event if it doesn't work out in the future. Another example is the Stafford Ag event, this year will be September 11th, at one of their local farms.

7. Announcements. None

8. Adjourn The meeting adjourned at 2:20

Rebecca Hyde, Secretary

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