

Woodstock Agricultural Commission

Regular Meeting, Town Hall, 1 pm, Monday, August 15, 2022

Members Present: Emilie Hebert, Rebecca Hyde, Paul Miller, Stewart Morse, Richard Norman

Absent: Linda Auger, Jon Hermonot, Doug Young

Public Present: Grace Jacobsen, Karen Swanberg, Megan Hebert, Amy Monahan, Fred Rich, Eleanore Provençal, Pam Minella

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

2. Seat alternates Paul Miller was seated

3. Review of minutes July 2022 minutes were approved

4. Public participation None

6. Old business

a. WOSLAPC report. Nothing new, there was a long executive session with the town lawyer.

b. P&Z report. Working on cannabis and home occupancy matters. Discussions, no decisions. No ZEO right now, but interviews on-going. Regular meeting this Thursday.

c. Other

7. New business

a. Other Windham County Towns Ag Commissions Stafford Farm Day is Sept 11th, from 11 to 4. This is coordinated by the Stafford Agricultural Advisory Commission. They have a good web site: <https://www.staffordag.com>

b. Ag Zoning Ideas/Questions Discussions on zoning and agriculture were continued:

*'farm premises', when mentioned in a farm store or stand definition, should include all farms owned by the proprietor

*'stand' would naturally be an 'as of right' (no permit required) operation, presumably entirely or almost entirely selling items produced by the farmer on site, often but not always seasonal

*traditionally, a store had a door and a stand didn't

*note should be taken of the fact that some items, such as meat, are required to be processed off-farm and then are returned to the farm

*often an operation will include items produced by a neighbor or relative

*a farm store permit process would be best kept simple

1. Is the Commission looking to restrict and regulate farm stores/stands in Town?

2. Will the process of restricting and regulating interfere with the town ordinance, the Right to Farm?

3. Does the commission see a problem with the current family farm store/stand permitting process?
4. Does the commission foresee issues with farm stores/stands in the farming community?

c. Celebrating Ag. Stewart drafted a letter to the Celebrating Ag Board of Directors in support of the event in the past and hopefully in the future, and offering our assistance. **Motion to approve and send the letter. All in favor.**

d. Woodstock Grange Program. Amy would like to see more vendors next year, some pulled out this year. Cherry Ledge Farm had over 150 attendees. Weather was very hot. Many entries came in for the fair and there were over 60 attendees at the breakfast.

Motion: To contribute \$200 to the Woodstock Grange towards expenses of the recent Grange Fair. All in favor.

e. 4 H Fair. Stewart attended it down at the Brooklyn Fairgrounds, it was a limited fair and poorly attended, used to be better attended. Consider for next month how better to support this, and to understand how the local 4 H is evolving.

f. State of CT Ag Report Paul Miller resigned from the Milk Promotion Board, will no longer be the Chair.

f. Woodstock land map review Map 5783. This map covers 171 from just West of Shields Rd to just West of New Sweden Rd, including portions of Shields, Rocky Hill, Pulpit Rock, New Sweden, Cutler Hill, Meehan, and Old Hall Rds. 122 parcels, not very developed, some good farm land and forest as well as swamp.

g. Other.

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.)