

Woodstock Agricultural Commission

Regular Meeting, Town Hall, 1 pm, Monday, January 23, 2023

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

Absent: Jon Hermonot

Public Present: Grace Jacobsen, Fred Rich, Karen Swanberg

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

2. **Seat alternates** Paul Miller seated

3. **Review of minutes** December 2022 minutes were approved

4. **Public participation** None

5. **Old business**

a. **WOSLAPC report** No report

b. **P&Z report** Rebecca shared the new Home Occupation Permit form

c. **Ag Zoning Ideas/Questions** Discussion on various aspects such as how to handle farm products processed off-farm and then sold on-farm, auditing a percentage-of-sales-based farm store rule, how to define the difference between a farm store and any other retail operation. Agreed that the Ashford definition of farm store, edited to add “and promotional items” would be a good one, Emily will give that to Dan Malo.

d. **Budget** Budget was submitted, no further discussion

e. **Other** Stewart Morse and Richard Norman were reappointed to the Agriculture Commission at the Board of Selectmen’s Dec 15, 2022 meeting. Linda Auger and Paul Miller were reappointed as Alternates. Douglas Young resigned as a member effective Dec 31, 2022.

Celebrating Agriculture 2023 is coming together well, there will be extensive promotion due to the change in locale to the Brooklyn Fairgrounds.

6. **New business**

a. **State of CT Ag Report** Jeff Gordon introduced SB 70, along with Sen. Harding, with a brief text: “That the general statutes be amended to promote the siting and construction of anaerobic digesters, both on farms and otherwise, for the disposal of agricultural wastes and food scraps.” It was referred on Jan 12th to the Joint Comm. on Environment.

b. **Woodstock land map review** Map 5124. 100 parcels, 851 acres. 197 near 198, Old Turnpike, Sherman, Pole Bridge. Keach Pond on the Still River. Swamp, woods, a little farmland. No new houses in a while. Windswept Drive development from the 90s. YMCA owns along Old Turnpike. Cell tower. 8 largest landowners, with between 41 and 85 acres each, own 60% of the land.

The Assessor’s office is now using the GIS mapping available here: <https://www.axisgis.com/woodstockct/>, or through the assessor’s page on the town web site. They are no longer using NECCOG’s service.

c. Other Paul may make up a list of opportunities for kids with the Killingly VoAg SAE programs. PAWS is being evicted. We'll each come next month with a possible SAE opportunity. Grant opportunities are out there.

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.)