

Woodstock Agricultural Commission

Regular Meeting, Woodstock Town Hall, 1 pm, Monday, October 16, 2023

Members Present: Jon Hermonot, Paul Miller, Richard Norman, Stuart Morse, Karen Swanberg, Emilie Hebert, Linda Auger)

Absent: Rebecca Hyde

Public present: Grace Jacobson, Paul Larson and Crystal Adams.

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

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

3. **Review of minutes** September 2023 minutes were approved Motion by R, Norman, 2nd by K. Swanberg. Approved.

4. **Public participation** Crystal Adams reported on the workshop that she and Rebecca Hyde attended in regards to the \$10,000 American Farmland Trust grant award WAC. She reported that over 60 people attended from all over New England, NY and PA. The focus was on soil health and attendees brought back a penetrometer that can be used at different farms to measure the soil health.

5. **Old business**

a. **WOSLAPC report** No meeting

b. **P&Z report** - continuation of Air B&B and Cannabis.

c. **Farming Friends letter** Stewart will ask the 1st Selectman's office to send out. Emilie will prepare the letters for mailing.

d. **Farm Store Definition** No report.

e. **Celebrate Agriculture 2023** The Celebrating Ag committee felt that the event went well considering the weather and it being the first time at its new location. P. Miller suggested adding a map of the location of all the day's events, advertise earlier and mentioned the poor lighting in the barns. Emilie said Brooklyn is planning on upgrading the lighting this year.

f. **\$10,000 American Farmland Trust Grant - Under Public participation**

g. **Other** R. Norman reported on Vo Ag (commission had asked for information). Woodstock has 7 students. The program is full with a waiting list. They have added a Biotechnology & Food Science program.

6. **New business** S. Morse talked about his idea of a Woodstock Agriculture Taste Trail. Will discuss ideas at next meeting.

a. **State of CT Ag Report** Paul Larson reported in his position with CT Farm Bureau that they are in discussions with DOAG but was unable to give details at this time.

b. **Private land access** S. Morse spoke with Gary O about going on the radio to speak on this. L. Auger said that it might be good to do so to educate the public. Other ideas of how to "get the word out" were discussed. Bring ideas to the next meeting.

c. **Farm tax exemption** S. Morse spoke with Pat Boyd about attending our meeting on the subject. Discussion ensued.

Announcements CT Ag Expo is November 8, 2023

8. **Adjourn** The meeting adjourned at 2:08

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Auger

(These minutes are subject to approval at the next meeting of the full Commission.) 1