

Woodstock Agricultural Commission

Regular Meeting, Woodstock Town Hall, 1 pm, Monday, November 20, 2023

Members Present: Linda Auger, Rebecca Hyde, Paul Miller, Stewart Morse, Richard Norman, Karen Swanberg

Absent: Emilie Hebert, Jon Hermonot

Public present: None

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

2. **Seat alternates** Paul Miller seated

3. **Review of minutes** October 2023 minutes were approved

4. **Public participation** None

5. **Old business**

a. **WOSLAPC report** Had some recent interest from landowners

b. **P&Z report** Public hearing of Woodstock Sustainable Farms has been put on continuation. Some neighbors were concerned, WSF has somewhat uncertain plans. Road is the biggest issue.

c. **Other** None

6. **New business**

a. **Farming Friends Letter** No further discussion

b. **Farm Store Definition** No further discussion

c. **American Farmland Trust Grant** Hiring is proceeding, an action plan will be formulated soon

d. **Private Land Access** April would be good for a talk on the radio about this

e. **Farm Tax Exemption** Farm Bureau has put forth recommendations, including removing a cap on the exemption, by amending the state legislation. They also made other tax reform recommendations. Horse farms always have living quarters in the barn, which needs to be addressed in the ag building tax exemption paperwork. Another presentation on farm tax issues for our local farmers may be in order.

f. **Woodstock Agriculture Taste Trail** Could be coupled with the Shop Hop. Will take up again.

g. **State of CT Agriculture Report** There are concerns about the California emissions standards being applied to farm equipment, including those concerning electric vehicles. On a national level, the Farm Bill has been extended for a year. The whole milk bill continues to be hung up on the dietary guidelines from the Dept of Ag.

h. **Other** 2024 Meeting calendar: usual 3rd Mon of the month, with meetings in Jan & Feb due to holidays set a week later. All in favor.

7. Announcements none

8. Adjourn The meeting adjourned at 2:24.

Rebecca Hyde, Secretary

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