

Woodstock Agricultural Commission

Regular Meeting, Woodstock Town Hall, 1 pm, Monday, February 26, 2024

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

Absent: Linda Auger, Emilie Hebert, Jon Hermonot

Public present: Grace Jacobson

1. **Call to order** Meeting called to order at 1:02 pm

2. **Seat alternates** Paul Miller seated

3. **Review of minutes** January 2024 minutes were approved

4. **Public participation** None

5. **Old business**

a. **Woodstock Open Space report** No meeting this month

b. **P&Z report** Nothing new related to ag. Dan Malo will be f/t ZEO and Inland Wetlands Agent. Stewart will invite him to a future meeting.

c. **Farming Friends Letter** This was mailed out.

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

e. **American Farmland Trust Grant** reviewed protected parcels in East Woodstock

f. **Private land access** No further discussion

g. **Farm tax exemption** The state needs to amend its statutes to allow a higher limit on property tax exemptions for agricultural buildings and equipment. Language to address this is being drafted and will be brought up in this legislative session.

h. **Woodstock Agricultural Taste Trail** no action on this recently

i. **Thompson Ag Commission** meeting was canceled, Stewart will follow up.

j. **Other** None

6. **New business**

a. **CT Community Farms Preservation Program** This program has been revived, creating an opportunity for smaller farms to apply for preservation funding. Information is available through the Farmland Preservation Unit of the CT Dept of Agriculture's Bureau of Agricultural Development and Resource Conservation.

b. **State of Ct Ag Report** Ag day is March 20th. Legislation is being drafted which would allow towns to increase the property tax exemption on farm equipment, from 100,000 to 250,000 or with no limit on how high a town could go. Also possibly using the model of the MA tax credit for dairy farms which would make CT farmers more competitive.

c. **Other** None

7. Announcements None

8. Adjourn The meeting adjourned at 2:12

Rebecca Hyde, Secretary

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