

Woodstock Agricultural Commission

Regular Meeting, Woodstock Town Hall, 1 pm, Monday, March 16, 2024

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

Absent: Jon Hermonot

Public present: Grace Jacobson, Fred Rich, Dan Malo

1. **Call to order** Meeting called to order at 1:00 pm
2. **Seat alternates** None
3. **Review of minutes** February 2024 minutes were approved
4. **Dan Malo, Zoning Enforcement Officer** Dan is now working full-time for the town, and is anxious to facilitate good communication between Planning and Zoning, himself, and the Agricultural Commission. He will do his best to attend our meetings in the future.
5. **Public participation** None
6. **Old business**
 - a. **Woodstock Open Space report** Several parcels are under discussion.
 - b. **P&Z report** Nothing pertinent at the moment
 - c. **Farm Store Definition** No further discussion
 - d. **American Farmland Trust Grant** Another tranche of \$3,000 has arrived. Crystal and Rebecca may attend the CT-NOFA conference and CCLC conference next weekend using these funds. Mostly organizational work going on. There is continued need for a paid assistant.
 - e. **Private land access** Chase gave a quote of about \$400 for 25 small aluminum signs. Emily will continue to research.
 - f. **Farm tax exemption** Bill 5492 is now working its way through the CT legislature, there is a public hearing on March 20th.
 - g. **Woodstock Agricultural Taste Trail** No further discussion
 - h. **Thompson Ag Commission** They have not met recently
 - i. **Community Farms Preservation Program** Two farms may pursue this.
 - j. **Other** The Killingly VoAg program is slightly over-enrolled. They had 77 applicants of whom 49 were accepted. Woodstock has 3 waitlisted, none accepted. The state is not meeting their requests for full funding, which shifts costs to the sending towns. Discussion of how to better encourage Woodstock youth to apply - possibly target 4H members.
7. **New business**
 - a. **State of Ct Ag Report** Ag Day is March 20th.
 - b. **Other** None
8. **Announcements** None

9. Adjourn The meeting adjourned at 2:09.

Rebecca Hyde, Secretary

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