

Woodstock Agricultural Commission

Regular Meeting, Town Hall, 1 pm, Monday, December 20, 2021

Members Present: Jon Hermonot, Emilie Hebert, Rebecca Hyde, Paul Miller, Stewart Morse, Richard Norman, Doug Young (1:04)

Absent: Linda Auger

Public Present: Grace Jacobsen, Eleanore Provencal

1. **Call to order.** Meeting called to order at 1:00 pm
2. **Seat alternates.** Paul Miller was seated, prior to Doug Young's arrival
3. **Review of minutes.** November 2021 minutes were approved, with the note it was a special meeting, not a regular meeting.

Motion: Add Public Comments to the meeting, all in favor.

Public Comments: None

4. **Treasurer's Report** as it's time to budget for FY23, a report on FY22 and 21 was requested from the Finance Director

5. Old business

a. **WOSLAFP report.** 2 or 3 projects going on, the balance in the fund is down a bit. Usually, annually, they get \$5,000 for operating expenses and \$25,000 to go into the Fund.

b. **P&Z report.** There was some discussion on anaerobic digesters. P&Z is interested in regulating them, but Paul sees it as soon being mandated from the state level, and other towns haven't regulated them. As for farm stores, it's possible they may be required to get a special permit, which can mean expensive surveys and lengthy public hearings.

c. **Other.** None

6. New business

a. **Open Space Valuation.** A petition was submitted to pass an ordinance regarding open space valuation but the town's lawyer said it wasn't legal.

Motion:

The Commission strongly recommends that the Recommended Land Use Values from the State Office of Policy and Management be used by the Assessor in assessing PA 490 Farmland and Open Space acreage.

All in favor except 1 abstention by Rebecca Hyde

b. **Open Space Alternate** Emily Hebert volunteers to be the OS Alternate.

c. **Other Windham County Towns Ag Commissions.** No news.

c. **State of CT Ag Report.** No news.

d. **Woodstock land map review.** 5130. Dividend, Phelps, County, Woodstock Rd, etc. 129 parcels. Includes Norman's sugarbush, Fairlane Farm, Echo Farm, old Maplecrest Farm, Woz property. Waterways: Gravelly Brook, various swamp. Fair amount of good farmland, woods, homes.

e. Other: 2022 meeting dates: Jan 10, Feb 14, March 21, April 18, May 16, June 20, July 18, Aug 15, Sept 19, Oct 17, Nov 21, and Dec 19.

7. Announcements. Joy Tyler, a UCONN Extension Tolland, Local Food Ambassador, wants to visit.

Mary Concklin is retiring and needs to be replaced, instead her position may be integrated into another position. As she has provided a great deal of useful information, it was suggested the Commission write a letter in support of her position being filled going forward. She is a Visiting Extension Educator - Fruit Production and IPM and IPM Program Coordinator for UCONN's Dept of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture.

8. Adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 2:16.

Rebecca Hyde, Secretary

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