

Woodstock Agricultural Commission

Regular Meeting, Town Hall, 1 pm, Monday, October 18, 2021

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

Absent: Doug Young, Jon Hermonot

Public Present: Amy Monahan, Senexet Grange

1. **Call to order.** Meeting called to order at 1:04 pm
2. **Seat alternates.** Linda Auger was seated
3. **Review of minutes.** September 2021 minutes were approved
4. **Public participation.** None
5. **Old business**

a. **WOSLAFP report.** The recent Town Meeting authorized an alternate to our primary representation on the committee.

b. **P&Z report.** Recent planning meeting was canceled.

c. **Senexet Grange programs.** Next talk is October 27, "Simple Rotational Grazing" 6:00 pm online via Zoom or in person, with limited seating, at the Grange, 628 Route 169.

Motion: Move to spend up to \$250 on advertising for the Farm Talk programs that the Grange and ECCD are sponsoring. **All in favor.**

d. **Celebrating Agriculture.** Went well, attendance down a bit but overall successful.

e. **Other**

6. New business

a. **Open Space Valuation.** The Assessor is proposing to appraise all properties in the 490 program under the Open Space category at \$600 an acre.

Motion: Move to recommend to the Selectmen that land classified as 490 Open Space be valued according to a local Ordinance. **All in favor.**

b. Local Food supply for our Schools

1. Woodstock Elementary. No response to a request for information.

2. Woodstock Middle School. Kathy Bartlett from the Middle School would be willing to come speak to us. In the past, she's seen little interest from growers, and there are issues with planning ahead. There's a program called Flavors which they use.

3. Woodstock Academy. No response to a request for information.

With regard to the issue of whole milk in the schools, there's a need for advocacy with the Federal representatives to get a bill passed in the US Congress. Paul Miller went to a Board of Ed meeting to encourage they send a letter to our representatives, they referred it to the Wellness Committee. Discussed putting out a letter ourselves, Paul will work on a draft.

c. Other Windham County Towns Ag Commissions. Stewart is visiting other towns' commissions. Went to Thompson: one dairy farm in Thompson - Fort Hill Farms. The Town of Thompson just passed an ordinance to regulate chicken flocks in residential areas, they have zones for residential, etc.

c. State of CT Ag Report. Governor announced extra funding for agriculture, 10 million. The Farm Bureau passed some resolutions on wildlife control and mileage taxes on trucks. The EPA has demanded all larger livestock operations have a Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) permits. CT is behind on working through this issue.

d. Woodstock land map review. 5167. Runs from west of Prospect St to east of 169, includes 207 parcels so quite a bit of subdivision. Berch Farm LLC (James Donovan) owns 198 acres and several commercial buildings, frontage at 1140 Rt 169. Stargazer Farm (McMahon + Verdirame) has 31 acres and a 25,500 ft riding arena completed in 2020, access from Woodstock Rd.

e. Other

7. Announcements.

8. Adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 2:45 pm.

Rebecca Hyde, Secretary

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