

## **Auburn Natural Products and Agriculture Working Group**

Minutes: 4 26 22 Approved: 5 31 22

**Location:** Bell Farm

**Recorder:** Dave Griswold

**Staff attending:** None

**Attending:** Dave Griswold, Bill Sylvester, Kathy Shaw, Joe Gray, Chris Carson, Pam Rousseau, David Bell

**Excused:** Katie Boss

**Absent:** Ed Michaud

**Guests:** Rhyanna Larose

**Call to Order:** 6:40 pm

**Public Participation:** None

1. **Approval of Minutes:** 3 29 22 Minutes approved.
2. Dave reviewed SNRB 4 7 22 meeting. Current members from old Ag Committee are to stay on. SNRB will look at terms at July meeting. Most of meeting was devoted to review and refine proposal from Community Forest and Conservation to ensure street tree component of community forest is maintained.
3. **GIS Project:** No progress since last meeting.
4. **Legislation update:** LD 1884 was defeated. LD 2003 concerning affordable housing was carried forward to next session.
5. **PFAS:** PFAS testing by the State has started in Auburn. There was a presentation recently in Oxford. Chris and Kathy will wxplore possibility of getting a speaker.
6. **Soil Map:** Kathy has sent us a map developed by Jim Johnson at NRCS showing prime farmland soils and soils of statewide importance in Auburn. There was a discussion about how to make these soils more visible to city staff and citizens.
7. **Crazy Worms:** Discussion of Crazy worm impact on soils and forests. Crazy worms have been found recently in Auburn. How to increase public awareness?
8. **Ag Zone:** Discussion about potential development in the Ag Zone.
9. **Speakers:** Discussion that Matt Manson at Blackie's would be a good contact to learn more about how he aggregates local produce and ag products.

**New Business:** None

**Action Items:**

1. Katie will review draft work plan and linkage to NR&Ag WG ordinance
2. Joe will follow up with Rosemary Mosher on the GIS project
3. Speaker outreach; Pam, crazy worms; Chris and Kathy PFAS; Kathy, Matt Manson

**Next meetings:** May 31, 6:00 location tba

**Pending agenda items:**

1. Work Plan Review for 2022
2. Craft a vision for agriculture in Auburn and share with community
3. PFAS
4. Producer survey
5. Possible presentation by Blackie's manager Matt Manson about aggregation for School Department
6. Food Sovereignty Law
7. Good Food Council of L-A to discuss urban agriculture opportunities.
8. Maine Farmland Trust Easement presentation

**Adjourned:** 8:10 PM