

Ag Committee Meeting Notes: July 27, 2021

Approved: 8 31 21

In Attendance: Jay Brenchik, Eric Cousens, Dave Bell, Kathy Shaw, Joe Gray, Bill Sylvester, Scott Blanchard, Katie Boss, Chris Carson

Excused: Dave Griswold, Ed Michaud

Absent: Michelle Melaragno

1. Review by Eric of proposal to deepen rural residential strips
 - a. Staff proposing that planning board meeting on 8/10 include physical maps for public to review
 - b. Review of questions that staff has for council and will bring to council meeting on 8/2
 - c. Questions:
 - i. Ask for the volume of prime soils that would be lost with the ordinance change
 - ii. Ask for there to be standards included in the ordinance that would support ag production (i.e. don't make a driveway through a field – Dave's example) – criteria to avoid prime soils & soils of statewide importance
 - iii. 300 foot buffer where hunting can't happen – this could impact hunting
 - iv. Is Fire (AFD) concerned about long driveways (rural res strips)?
2. Review of solar ordinance – process for coming to ag committee for review after 1% of ag zone is developed with solar
3. Possibility of processing facilities in Auburn – seized marijuana facilities
4. Motion to accept 5/25 and 6/29 meetings – Joe 1st and Scott 2nd (vote to accept 6-0-0)
5. Review of workplan & assigning tasks
 - a. Need to finalize strategies
 - b. Change to fiscal year (July 1, 2021 – June 30)
 - c. Kathy – will take on Farmer's market (item 5 in 2021) and annual tour (item 6b) and SWCD tour (1a) and event info added to riverwalk placards
 - d. Joe – inventory auburn farms (1)
 - e. Katie – getting more food into school meals, Bowdoinham leasing land
 - f. Bill – mapping (Inventories #2)
 - g. Scott -LAWPC property
 - h. Need to hear from Ed, Dave
6. Kathy & Katie – will write a letter to the Planning Board re: residential strips
7. Committee accepted Katie's resignation as Chair
8. New Chair: Joe nominated Kathy, Katie seconded nomination. Motion contingent upon Kathy's term being renewed by City Council – her Chair position would be effective as of the date of the Council meeting (8/2/21). Committee voted 6-0-0 in favor of Kathy.
9. Kathy will reach out to Michelle to connect re: seat, absences

10. Katie & Jay will meet to review council report – questions about data
11. August meeting will be in community room on 31st