

Auburn Agricultural Committee

Minutes 3 23 2021 approved 4 27 2021

Location: By Zoom

Recorder: Dave Griswold

Staff attending: Jay Brenchik, Eric Cousins

Attending: David Bell, Katie Boss, Dave Griswold, Bill Sylvester, Kathy Shaw, Scott Blanchard, Joe Gray

Excused: Ed Michaud

Absent: Michelle Melaragno

Guests: Chris Carson

Call to Order: 5:33 pm

Public Participation: None

1. **2 23 21 minutes:** approved.
2. **Discussion with City Staff (Brenchik and Cousins)**
 - a. Topics
 - i. City role in Ag/Forestry
 - ii. Selling city-owned properties
 - iii. Warehouse, logistics and manufacturing issues with Ag
 - iv. City not focused on developing Ag, but open to ideas
 - v. Tall wood buildings
 - vi. Auburn forest harvesting and Tree Farm data
 - vii. Voluntary Municipal Farm Support Program
 - viii. Potential for links to useful resource information on web page
 - ix. Comp plan draft for Ag/Forestry. Staff resources can be allocated or increased with goals to pursue
 - x. Food Sovereignty Law. Issue of no meat or poultry, home manufactured food sales from farmers markets. Rep Libby is working on a bill to address this. Write letter of support at next meeting?
 - xi. Discussion about potential around adding a forester to city staff to provide knowledge about forestry issues and resources. Foresters have a very broad natural resources and economics education.

- xii. Need for Ag marketing
- xiii. Solar projects in Ag Zone. Largest project in Industrial zone, three more in AG zone. About ½% vs max of 1% before Ag Committee review. Need to protect soils and remove solar infrastructure once project is decommissioned. 25-35 year project life span.
- xiv. Compost facility tour shows potential to eventually repurpose it to support Ag infrastructure .

3. Survey Development

- a. Katie will consolidate survey for further review

4. City Council Ag Committee Update scheduled 4 5

- a. Katie, Scott and Dave will present. Others welcome to attend.

5. New Business - None

Action Items:

1. Katie will edit producer questionnaire and review with Kathy and Joe
2. Committee update presentation to City Council 4 5

Next meeting: Tuesday, 4 27 2021, 5:30pm by Zoom

Pending agenda items:

1. Zoning work group update
2. Potential web page information postings- invasive species and forest pathogens
3. Producers questionnaire/survey
4. Voluntary Municipal Farm Support Program
5. Food Sovereignty Law
6. Compost facility discussion
7. Craft a vision for agriculture in Auburn and share with community
8. Educational offerings from the Ag Committee
9. Consider posting slide decks of Invasive species and forest pathogen presentations to Maine Woodlands annual meeting on the Ag Committee page. Dave Griswold has obtained the presentations and permission to post them
10. Review recent Ag committees (Crossroads, MAG-ARP) and learnings

Adjourned: 7:05 PM

