

## **Auburn Agricultural Committee**

DRAFT Minutes 9 22 2020

**Location:** Community Center, Pettengill Park

**Recorder:** Dave Griswold

**Staff attending:** None. Staff support expected to be appointed when vacant position is filled.

**Attending:** David Bell, Scott Blanchard, Katie Boss, Joe Gray, Dave Griswold

Kathy Shaw, Bill Sylvester

**Excused:** None

**Call to Order:** 5:34 pm

**Public Participation:** None

1. **8 27 minutes:** approved.
2. **Review Ordinance 14-12022019 and Exec Order 01-05022020:** See item 6 below.
3. **By-Laws:** Policies and Procedures/Committee Information was reviewed for Comprehensive Plan Update Workgroup and Planning Board. Dave Griswold agreed to draw from the two examples to draft policies and procedures for the Ag Committee, to be presented at the October meeting.
4. **Communications:** Ag Committee logo was reviewed and all agreed to add several trees to it to recognize woodlots and forestry in the Ag Zone. Liz Allen can add Ag Committee information to the City Facebook page. Staff support for the committee is dependent on filling a vacant position.
5. **Comprehensive Plan Update:** Counsellors Boss and McLeod will lead the effort. The workgroup will be looking for ag and forestry input especially about how to grow the sector. There is interest in breaking out a section focused on Ag and Forestry, which would be an addition.
6. **Council Order 79-07202020:** This replaces Exec Order 01-05022020. Kathy Shaw reported that the \$50 vouchers from the City are being used at the Farmers Market as planned. There are two more outdoor markets scheduled and then there will be need for a winter indoor location. If a location cannot be found, the markets will cease for the winter. The Community Little Theatre basement was suggested as a possibility. Discussion of the Order produced consensus that bullets 1, 3, 4, 6 and 7 were high priority. 7 is already in progress. Inquiries to develop an inventory of farms, farm stands and fire wood producers should be initiated.

7. **Associate Member Applications:** Michelle Melaragno, an active farmer, woodlot owner, and Conservation Commission member, was appointed to a 2 year term after review.
8. **Gracelawn Brush Revenue:** Brush deposited at Gracelawn is chipped for mulch, which is used by the City.

**Action Items:**

1. Dave Griswold will draft policies and procedures.
2. David Bell will get information on the Washburn potato processing plant.

**Next meeting:** 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday, 10 27 20

**Pending agenda items:**

1. Policies and Procedures
2. Develop plan to address Council Order
3. Draft recommendations to Council from list of discussion topics above and “Is Your Community Farm Friendly” checklist.
4. Possibilities for Education outreach
5. Possibilities for meeting with state legislators

**Adjourned:** 7:15 PM

