

Auburn Natural Products and Agriculture Working Group

Minutes: 7 31 23 Approved: 8 29 23

Location: Auburn Senior Center

Recorder: Dave Griswold

Staff attending: None

Attending: Dave Griswold, Joe Gray, Kathy Shaw, Chris Carson, Pam Rousseau

Excused: Chelsea Eaton, Michelle Malagnaro, David Bell

Absent: Katie Boss, Ed Michaud

Guests: Misty Edgecomb, Steve and Stephanie Damien

Call to Order: 6:15 pm

Public Participation: None

1. **Minutes:** 6 27 23 minutes were not available to be approved
2. 4H update: Pam reported that the nearest 4H is in Sagadahoc County. 4H is coordinated through Extension educator Torrey Jackson.
3. Tot Lot Revitalization Project
 - a. Misty Edgecomb, Parks and Rec Board Chair, made a presentation about an effort to establish a Community Food Forest at the Tot Lot. The goal is to develop multiple layers of food producing plants; trees, shrubs, perennials, annuals, that will be accessed by trails. The plan includes art and outdoor education. It will take several years to develop the 14 acre site with a connector to Salmon Point. There is a house on site which may be usable at some point.
 - b. Several years ago the City Council approved \$50,000 for a study. It is uncertain if the funds are still available at this point. Authorization from the City is needed to develop a design. No staff is involved with the effort at this point.
 - c. WG members will contact Phil Crowell and advocate for the project. Information needs to be shared with other Working Groups, particularly Conservation. Dave will touch base with Sam Boss, Conservation chair.
4. Idea to start "Friends of the Food Forest" group, and potentially solicit support from landscape companies.

5. Fall Farm Festival: Hope to organize an open farm day in Sept-Oct to increase awareness of agriculture in Auburn.

New Business: None

Next meetings: August 29

Pending agenda items:

Ajourned: 7:25 PM