

Auburn Agriculture and Natural Resource Protection Subcommittee

AGENDA

March 15, 2018

6:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Welcome and introductions

Purpose of Meeting & Outcome

Review of Minutes

Consideration of data maps and statistics

Vision of what we want to happen in the AGRP, what we want it to look like in 2030+

What activities do we want to see happening in the zone?

What do we not want to see happening there?

What's in the best interest of the entire community – now and in the future?

Further consideration of alternatives to the 50% income rule and possible outcomes

Looking ahead to April and May

Ken's next trip on April 19th?

Communicating with all AGRP zone property owners and abutters

8:30

Wrap Up

Eric Cousens

From: Ken Meter <kmeter@crcworks.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2018 12:59 PM
To: Karen Bolduc
Cc: Eric Cousens; Mary Sylvester; David Bell; Kim Finnerty; Stanwood Gray; David Haines; Rita Morin; Mia S. Poliquin Pross; William Sylvester; Marie Herrick; Peter Crichton; Megan Phillips Goldenberg
Subject: Re: Ag Committee minutes 3-1-18--working draft

Dear all,

I trust you are all dug out of the snow and will have a productive meeting tonight! I regret that I will not be able to join you.

I wanted to offer a couple of small clarifications regarding the minutes to the March 1 meeting.

First of all, I was uncomfortable with the wording in the minutes that "Consultants' Recommendation" was to recommend specific income limits for the activities we proposed rewarding.

As you all are aware, our first draft of the recommendations did indeed include specific income levels, suggested as a starting point for discussion only, and not as our proposed actual levels. Still, after reviewing the draft with several others, we took those specific numbers out of our report. Just to avoid confusion, it would be more accurate to state that our Recommendation, as presented in our report, did not suggest specific limits. That being said, I have no trouble with \$2,500 being used as a starting point for setting any income levels the Committee chooses, with one exception. For farms that sell to any broader market (potatoes to New England or milk to New York, for example) we think the limit should be far higher. Our initial draft suggested \$25,000 as a starting point for that discussion, and I would not recommend going below that figure in this case.

As far as the other categories are concerned, \$2,500 is a good starting point (but was not a specific recommendation we made for the final value). We would also note that these limits can certainly vary from activity to activity. That is, the Committee might suggest \$1,250 for one category and \$10,000 for another (just as one example), based on the priorities you set and the importance you place on each activity to be incentivized.

Finally, the minutes noted a request that further information should be compiled covering what other communities in Maine are doing with respect to protecting farmland. Here I would suggest starting with Megan's fine research on this, that was included in our Recommendations report. If reading this does not address the Committee's concerns, an excellent resource is the Maine state official who works with land issues, Ms. Gilbert, who is referenced in our report, and who has been in contact with both Eric Cousens and Mary Sylvester. She is an excellent resource and has offered to come to Auburn to meet with the Committee. She devoted a great deal of time to talking with Megan, Eric, and me, and we found her quite helpful and open. The Committee might want to invite her to join you for one of your regular meetings.

Best wishes,

Ken

On Mar 7, 2018 09:41, Karen Bolduc <foodjoyorg@gmail.com> wrote:

Oh great, that's good to know, and thank you! I would propose that those of us who are not Mary alternate turns taking minutes when Ken's not there.

K

Agricultural Mapping Data			
	Acres		
Soils	Entire Town	Ag Zone	
All prime farmland	4205	1289	7%
Farmland of Statewide Importance	9856	4221	22%
		5510	29%
LandCover			
Zone	Land Use	Acres	
AG	Crop	2429	13%
	Open	1494	8%
	Developed	657	3%
	Forested	13939	74%
	Gravel Pit	194	1%
	Recreation	217	1%
Total		18931	100%
LDCR	Crop	206	11%
	Open	166	21%
	Developed	389	21%
	Forested	998	55%
	Gravel Pit	52	3%
	Recreation	10	1%
Total		1822	112% Check Data
RR	Crop	298	5%
	Open	600	10%
	Developed	1145	20%
	Forested	3550	61%
	Gravel Pit	1	0%
Total	Recreation	233	4%
		5826	100%



GFCLA Vision:

Lewiston-Auburn bustles with people sharing *good food* that is healthy, affordable, and accessible, and that honors the enduring values, rich cultural heritage, and diverse needs of our population.

L-A COMMUNITY FOOD CHARTER

Because we believe *good food*:

- Is safe and nutritious, enabling people to live healthy, active lifestyles, and helping children learn and play;
- Supports a strong local economy and a thriving food system;
- Is produced with respect for and provides livable wages to workers;
- Stewards and conserves natural resources for future food production; and
- Fits cultural and/or religious beliefs.

Statement of Commitment:

I/We support a Lewiston-Auburn community that values *good food* and honors our enduring values, rich cultural heritage, and the diverse needs of our population. I/We will:



Strive for every member of our community to have a **food secure** future. No one in Lewiston-Auburn should go hungry.



Consider local and **sustainable agriculture** when making food decisions for ourselves and our families. Production systems should enhance healthy soil and clean water; similarly, economic systems should return a fair wage to labor and a fair income to farmers.



Enable **leadership** by all members of our community by sharing knowledge of *good food* and related resources and empowering individuals to take action.



Elevate *good food* **policy** by engaging and informing our local officials and leaders, lifting up examples of what works in other places, and using the definition of *good food* to evaluate relevant legislation and policy decisions.

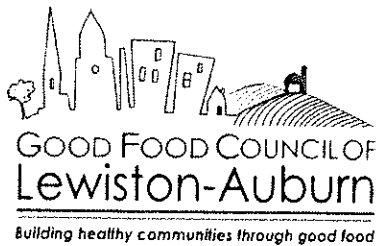


Support the preservation of **working landscapes** and development of **community infrastructure** that enhances production of and access to *good food*.



Become a Food Charter Champion!

Sign the Food Charter at www.goodfood4la.org



2018 Council

Camille Parrish
Bates College, Lewiston - Chair

Alisa Roman
Lewiston Public Schools, Lewiston

Belinda Gerry
City Councilor, Auburn

Deborah Morrill Burd
Covenant Health, Lewiston

Doug Greene
City of Auburn

Jonah Fertig
**Cooperative Development Institute &
Celebration Tree Farm & Yoga, Durham**

Karen Bolduc
Food Joy, Auburn

Khadija Hussein
**Agriculturalist & College Student,
Lewiston**

Kim Finnerty
Whiting Farm, Auburn

Leelaine Picker
Retired, Sabattus

Mark Hews
M E Hews and Company, LLC, Poland

Missy North-Drain
Healthy Androscoggin, Lewiston

Muhidin Libah
**Somali-Bantu Community Association,
Lewiston**

René Dumont
St. Mary's Health System, Lewiston

RitaMae Morin
**Agriculturalist & Nutrition Science
College Student, Auburn**

Shelley Kruszewski
Androscoggin Land Trust, Auburn

Kirsten Walter
St. Mary's Nutrition Center, Lewiston

Staff

Julia Harper
Coordinator

March 9, 2018

Mary Sylvester
208 Maple Hill Road
Auburn, Maine 04210

Dear Mary:

The Good Food Council of Lewiston-Auburn (GFCLA) was formed in 2012. Through education, advocacy, and community-based decision-making, our mission is to shape a food system where our entire community of Lewiston-Auburn has access to good food. In keeping with that mission, the Council has followed the work of the City of Auburn's Agriculture and Resource Protection Steering Committee as it has considered how to move forward with a review of current zoning. The Council applauds the creation of this committee and the dedicated work of its members. Several of our Council members are active participants.

The work before the committee is complex. As we have followed the work of this committee, listened thoughtfully to the presentations shared with the community, and heard the commitment by the committee members and city staff to produce a thoughtful plan, we, as a Council, are excited for the future of agriculture in Auburn!

It is in the spirit of our shared interest to strengthen local food systems, not simply agriculture, that we enclose the **Lewiston-Auburn Community Food Charter** for the committee's consideration. Auburn City Council was an early adopter of the Food Charter in 2016 by unanimous resolution, and we would like to take the opportunity to introduce or reintroduce the document to the members of the AGRP Steering Committee. There are 5 tenets of the charter, and we believe that tenets two and five, regarding local and sustainable agriculture, and community infrastructure, are particularly relevant to your important work. The Good Food Council of Lewiston-Auburn thanks you!

Sincerely,

Camille Parrish
Chair, Good Food Council of L-A
Auburn Resident