



City of Auburn, Maine

Economic and Community Development

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AUBURN ANNOUNCES PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS AGRICULTURAL AND RESOURCE PROTECTION DISTRICT

AUBURN, ME. –The public is invited to a public meeting on Monday, November 14, 2016 at 6:00 PM at Auburn City Hall. The purpose of the meeting is to get input and ideas from farm and natural resource-based businesses, businesses that sell, process or add value to products produced by farms, property owners and any interested citizens on the past, present and future of Auburn's Agricultural economy. Auburn has a unique Agricultural and Resource Protection (AGRP) District, which has been in place since the early 1960's and contains over 40% of the city's land area, or over 20,000 acres. The AGRP regulations have limited development while promoting food, agricultural, timber and natural resource production and associated uses for the last 50 plus years, and represent a unique opportunity within the State. Maine has seen substantial growth in the number of small farms over the past decade, yet we have also seen farms closing over the years in Auburn as well.

Small and large farms not only provide local jobs and local food, but there are many spinoff processing and retail opportunities that can promote a vibrant downtown and local food economy. Over the past 50 years, the nature and trends of farming and food production may have changed and as a result, the regulations may create unintended consequences and barriers to the future and growth of farming and forestry. The City wants to hear from those in the farming and natural resource-based industries. There are a number of current funding opportunities to help expand farms and develop new products or markets for farm-related businesses. If you have ideas or thoughts on the subject, or see ways to reduce barriers to growing a farm business or reduce barriers to new entry into an agricultural business, we want to hear from you.

This is just the beginning of a possible discussion, but this meeting will provide an open forum for everyone interested in the future of Auburn's rural land and agricultural economy and help the City Council decide on possible funding for a more detailed review and agricultural opportunity and AGRP District study.

For additional information, you can check the city's website at:

<http://www.auburnmaine.gov/pages/government/agriculture-and-resource-protection-zoning->

[district-auburn-maine](#). An on-line survey is also available at:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NHHS58Q>.

For more information or if you'd like to talk directly to City Staff, please contact Eric Cousens, Deputy Director of Economic and Community Development at: ecousens@auburnmaine.gov or 207-333-6601 ext. 1154; or Doug Greene, City Planner at: dgreene@auburnmaine.gov or 207-333-6601 ext. 1156.

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