

Natural Products and Agriculture Working Group

Minutes 4 24 25 Approved 6 26 25

Location: Bell Farm

Recorder: Dave Griswold

Staff attending: None

Attending: Kathy Shaw, Joe Gray, Chloe Meyers, Grant Meyers, Dave Griswold, David Bell, Pam Rousseau

Excused:

Absent:

Guests: Stephanie

Call to Order: 6:13 pm

Public Participation: None

1. **Minutes:** None to approve
2. **Farm Tour:** Dave Bell gave a tour of his potato storage and sorting operation.
3. **Local Foods Action Plan:** Stephanie members discussed how NP&AgWG can support the Plan. NP&AgWG will receive \$1500 stipend to support Plan implementation. Funding will come in two \$&%) increments. Cloe will serve as liason. Stephanie will send the agreement and deliverables to Kathy to share with the group.
4. **Open Farm and Forest Day:** Planned for Oct 18. Ideas discussed to improve over last year: Add “makers” at farm stops; have “hub at Festival Plaza to hand out maps and Check off sheets to compete for donated prizes; Include farm stands; print sticker or patch for participants; start signing farms up earlier.
5. **SNRB discussions:** Plan to review meeting take aways at the May meeting.
6. **Funding cuts:** discussion about how funding cuts are affecting Good Shepard Food Bank and local food into area schools.
7. **New Business:**
 - a. SWCD is having a seed and tree sale on May 23. All spoken for.
 - b. A regional pilot for Hub and switchboard to share information on Ag related resources is in the works.
 - c. Maine Food Convergence is holding virtual sessions and a conference on May 28.

- d. Reminder that we need to keep tabs on Auburn's Comprehensive Plan update and contribute as needed.

Next meetings: Jan 23

Future meeting dates: May 22, June 26. All at Senior Center.

Adjourned: 7:40 PM