

Auburn Agricultural Committee

DRAFT Minutes 8 27 2020

Location: Community Center, Pettengill Park

Recorder: Dave Griswold

Staff attending: None. Staff support expected to be appointed by September meeting.

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

Kathy Shaw, Bill Sylvester

Excused: None

Call to Order: 5:40 pm

Public Participation: None

1. Dave Griswold handed out Maine Land Trust webinar checklist "Is Your Community Farm Friendly"
2. Membership: Two additional members, Katie Boss and Joe Gray, have been appointed by City Council. The committee may appoint two additional nonvoting members. Katie Boss and David Bell will determine level of interest expressed by Ed Michaud, Michelle Melengro and Andrew McBean. Katie will forward city applications to candidates with a deadline of 9-18, so that they may be reviewed at the next meeting.
3. Officers: By votes of 7-0, the committee selected the following officers: Chair - Katie Boss, Vice Chair - Kathy Shaw, Secretary - Dave Griswold
4. By-Laws: Katie Boss will request sample committee by-laws from the city for consideration at next meeting.
5. Consideration of topics to consider for action: There was a wide ranging discussion of topics, including: timber harvesting in Auburn; potential for generating revenue from brush disposal; low activity by Auburn farmers in Open Farm Day; need for small slaughter house; need for food processing facilities; potential meeting with state legislators to explore state grants or other funding; how to support more local markets for farmers; potential to promote canning classes for citizens; potential for more community gardens; availability of \$50 city vouchers allowing purchases at farmers' markets; possibility of capturing produce rejected by Walmart; solar development in ag zone; possibilities of providing product from farms to the school lunch program.

Action Items:

1. Katie Boss and David Bell will approach potential members and provide applications.
2. Katie Boss will ask about volume of brush at Gracelawn, and revenue generated.

Next meeting: 4th Thursday, 9 24 20

Pending agenda items:

1. Membership
2. By-Laws
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