

Auburn Agricultural Committee

Minutes 6 29 2021

Location: Senior Center / Pettengill Park, outside)

Recorder: Dave Griswold

Staff attending: Jay Brenchik

Attending: Dave Griswold, Bill Sylvester, Kathy Shaw, Joe Gray

Excused: Katie Boss, David Bell, Scott Blanchard, Ed Michaud

Absent: Michelle Melaragno

Guests: None

Call to Order: 5:35 pm

Public Participation: None

1. **5 25 21 minutes:** Since there was not a quorum present, approval of the minutes was postponed until the next meeting.
2. **The agenda moved ahead to the next meeting, due to lack of a quorum. Those present discussed the items below.**
 - a. Bill shared an aerial photo of the solar farm in Farmington, reported to being approved for 500 acres.
 - b. Jay reported on the development of the Cannabis industry in Auburn, and degree of staff involvement in permitting and regulation.
 - c. Ag Committee report to the City Council is required 120 days after suspension of emergency declaration. Jay is working on a written report and a power point deck. Much of the report will mirror the update delivered to the Council on 4 5.
 - d. Development of a list of stakeholders for the survey is a work in progress.
Jay will work with Rosemary Mosher to develop a list of landowners in the Ag Zone, and factor in several lists that Joe will provide. Jay and Liz will draft a press release to promote the survey. Jay will coordinate with Katie and Liz Allen to finalize the survey questions.
 - e. Discussion of Ag Zone language. Need to clarify what vertical integration is allowed.
 - f. Discussion of the State Right to Farm law and whether there is value for the City to endorse it.

- g. Discussion of whether there is a continuing issue about multi-generational legacy landowners. What is the extent of any concerns? Jay will ask Eric Cousins to provide background and an update.
- h. Discussion of proposed lot depth change from 450 to 700 Ft. Status of the proposal is unclear.
- i. Kathy will check with ALT about the process of making landowners aware of possibility of land trusts/conservation easements.
- j. There is interest in collaboration with the Conservation Commission. Dave reported that the Conservation Commission is considering focusing on invasive species over the next year.
- k. Dave reported that the State's Forest Action Plan has been approved by the USDA. There is interest in sharing highlights with the Committee and potentially the City Council.

3. Action Items

- a. Dave will follow up with Liz Allen about postings approved at 4 27 meeting. *Dave reached out to Liz again. Need to check if information is now posted.*
- b. Dave will reach out to Rosemary Mosher about potential to map farms, soils and forest. *Data was developed in the past for previous Ag Committees, and is available*
- c. Katie will continue to develop Work Plan considering tonight's discussion.
- d. Katie will check status of Food Sovereignty bill with Sen. Claxton.

Next meeting: Tuesday, 7 27 2021, 5:30pm, location City Hall.

Pending agenda items:

1. Producers questionnaire/survey
2. Status of proposal to expand strip zoning.
3. Work Plan Development
4. Council presentation re Order 79-07202020
5. Food Sovereignty Law
6. Good Food Council of L-A to discuss urban agriculture opportunities.
7. Compost facility discussion
8. Craft a vision for agriculture in Auburn and share with community

9. Draft language to address inconsistencies between regulation of cannabis and ag infrastructure development.

Adjourned: 6:40 PM