

Auburn Agricultural Committee

Minutes 9 28 21 Approved 10 27 21

Location: Auburn Hall, Community Room

Recorder: Dave Griswold

Staff attending: Jay Brenchick , Rosemary Mosher

Attending: Dave Griswold, Bill Sylvester, Kathy Shaw, Joe Gray, Katie Boss, David Bell, Scott Blanchard

Excused: None

Absent: Ed Michaud

Guests: Chris Carson

Call to Order: 6:10 pm

Public Participation: None

1. **Guest Presentation:** Rosemary Mosher, GIS specialist, presented information about Auburn's GIS mapping system. She raised the possibility that an ap "Quick Capture" could be used to map activities on the landscape using photos taken from cell phones. The goal would be to identify woodland, tilled land, pasture, open space, etc. on the city system. The data could be used to capture information about activities in the Ag Zone, and develop a story map. The committee discussed how this potential could compliment aerial photograph. Joe Gray agreed to work with Rosemary to develop a list of categories to group input in the ap, as well as definitions. After further discussion of these details, the committee will consider moving forward.
2. **8 30 21 Minutes** approved
3. **Work Groups**
 - a. Dave, Kathy and Katie are completing the Story Walk to be installed on the Riverwalk in October.
 - b. There was discussion about how to make sure that Committee input was received by the Planning Board at the information meeting on 10 4 and the Planning Board meeting on 10 12. Given the issues presented by difficulties presenting the Committee letter addressing concerns about potential Zone changes in the Ag Zone at the September Planning Board meeting, the

Committee considered attendance at the 10 12 Planning Board meeting to present a second letter outlining concerns. Discussion also focused on the need to communicate the relative cost of ag, industrial and residential properties on city services.

- c. Kathy has identified several ag/woodlot landowners for a tour on 10 23. Focus audience to be City officials and staff. Scott will work on a schedule and logistics.
- d. Katie is waiting for a response from Maine Farmland Trust concerning an invitation to make a presentation to the Committee.

4. New Business:

- a. Dave gave an update about Conservation Commission focus on the pending relicensing process for the Upper Barker Dam on the Little Androscoggin, and the later relicensing of the Monte Dam on the Androscoggin. The importance of Auburn and Lewiston working together on the Monte Dam relicensing was discussed.
- b. Jay has distributed a survey on what topics need to be included at the Ag Show in Augusta, planned for January.
- c. Jay distributed the 8 25 21 draft report of the Governor's Task Force on the Forest Carbon Program.
- d. Small Ag Pandemic Relief is being developed, but not finalized yet. Focus is on those hurt economically, as well as those who are positioned to grow post pandemic.
- e. NRCS local working group is meeting on 10 26 from 9:30-11:00. They are looking for input on how to distribute federal funds.

5. Action Items

- a. Kathy and Scott will finalize plans for 10 23 farm tour.
- b. Katie will contact school dept about using local food.
- c. Joe will complete farm inventory.
- d. Jay will explore CIP potential for ag/forestry sector.
- e. Kathy will draft a budget request.

Next meetings: Tuesday, 10 26 2021, 6:00pm, location City Hall.

Tuesday, 11 30 2021, 6:00pm, location City Hall.

Tuesday, 12 28 2021, 6:00pm, 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.
10. Maine Farmland Trust Easement presentation

Adjourned: 7:56 PM