

## **Auburn Natural Products and Agriculture Working Group**

Minutes: 3 29 22 Approved: 4 26 22

**Location:** Senior Center

**Recorder:** Dave Griswold

**Staff attending:** Karen Scammon and assistant assessor

**Attending:** Dave Griswold, Bill Sylvester, Kathy Shaw, Joe Gray, Chris Carson, Pam Rousseau, Ed Michaud, David Bell

**Excused:** None

**Absent:** Katie Boss

**Guests:** Several members of the public, names not collected

**Call to Order:** 6:12 pm

**Public Participation:** None

1. Karen Scammon, City Assessor made a presentation about State Tax Programs for land use: Tree Growth, Farmland and Open Space. She covered what land qualifies, the application process, the tax benefits to the landowner and penalties to withdraw.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** 1 25 22 Ag Committee minutes were approved
3. **SNRB Ordinance:** Dave reviewed the new Sustainability and Natural Resources Management Board Ordinance, and our role in it as the Natural Products and Agriculture Working Group. SNRB will hold its' first meeting on 4 7. Bill will represent us for the SNRB quarterly meetings. The SNRB approves Working Group members and serves as coordinator between the working groups and the Council. Dave agreed to forward the ordinance to the group.
4. **GIS Project:** Joe will check in with Rosemary Mosher to move the project forward.
5. **LD 1884:** progress of LD 1884 through the legislature was reviewed.
6. **PFAS:** PFAS testing by the State has started in Auburn. We will monitor developments and share a recent video on the subject with Liz Allen to post on the city website. Maine Farmlands Trust is involved with PFAS discussions, so Katie may be able to share information at the next meeting..
7. **Soil Map:** Kathy has sent us a map developed by Jim Johnson at NRCS showing prime farmland soils and soils of statewide importance in Auburn. There was a discussion about how to make these soils more visible to city staff and citizens.

8. **Crazy Worms:** Discussion of Crazy worm impact on soils and forests. Crazy worms have been found recently in Auburn.
9. **Ag Zone:** Discussion about potential development in the Ag Zone.

**New Business:** None

**Action Items:**

1. Katie will review draft work plan and linkage to Ag Committee ordinance
2. Joe will follow up with Rosemary Mosher on the GIS project
3. Dave will send out SNRB ordinance

**Next meetings:** April 26, 6:00 location tba

**Pending agenda items:**

1. Work Plan Review for 2022
2. Craft a vision for agriculture in Auburn and share with community
3. PFAS
4. Producer survey
5. Possible presentation by Blackie's manager Matt Manson about aggregation for School Department
6. Food Sovereignty Law
7. Good Food Council of L-A to discuss urban agriculture opportunities.
8. Maine Farmland Trust Easement presentation

**Adjourned:** 8.28 PM

