

Auburn Natural Products and Agriculture Working Group

Minutes: 9 27 22 Approved: 12 27 22

Location: Auburn Senior Center

Recorder: Dave Griswold

Staff attending: Eric Cousins

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

Excused: Katie Boss

Absent: None

Guests: Meghan Flanagan, Contract Veterinarian, DACF, Duncan Pfaeler, Ag Compliance Officer, DACF

Call to Order: 6:10 pm

Public Participation: None

1. DACF representatives Flanagan and Pfaeler, gave presentation on PFAS.
 - a. PFAS are 300 compounds, synthetic fluorinated chemicals. Break down very slowly.
 - b. Evidence of a variety of health impacts
 - c. Source in Maine is wastewater sludge
 - d. Governor's Task Force 2019
 - i. Federal action levels for drinking water – wells
 - ii. Testing focus in Maine: milk, beef, water
 - iii. 7500 farms in Maine, most not impacted
 - iv. 700 sludge application locations to be tested by 2025. Coordination by DEP and CDC.
 - v. Testing facilities are limited
 - vi. Lots of variability of plant uptake of PFAS from soil
 - vii. Cows will eliminate PFAS if PFAS removed from diet
 - viii. DEP has a sludge map of confirmed licensed sites
 - ix. There are issues with hay, and hay sources are hard to track.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** 8 30 22 Minutes held for October meeting.

3. **Discussion:** Council resolution re income requirement in the Ag Zone and strip zoning; SNRB involvement with Planning Board review of same; LD 2003
4. **S&WCD meeting:** Kathy informed the group that S&WCD was meeting to receive input on local issues and concerns.

New Business: None

Action Items: None

Next meetings: Oct 25

Pending agenda items:

1. Local ag position paper discussion
2. Royal River Land Trust designation of key areas in Auburn
3. Producer survey- Farmed acres and value of product
4. Food Sovereignty Law
5. Good Food Council of L-A to discuss urban agriculture opportunities.
6. Maine Farmland Trust Easement presentation

Adjourned: 7:46 PM