

Auburn Natural Products and Agriculture Working Group

Minutes: 12 27 22 Approved: 1 31 23

Location: Auburn Hall

Recorder: Dave Griswold

Staff attending: Eric Cousins

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

Excused: Ed Michaud

Absent: Katie Boss

Guests:

Call to Order: 6:05 pm

Public Participation: None

1. Eric Cousins provided an update on path forward for SNRB recommendation to Planning Board re: Ag Zone income standard and strip zones.
 - a. SNRB economics document to be posted for the next Planning Board meeting on 1 10.
 - b. Planning Board is charged with developing an ordinance amendment by 3 20 23.
 - c. Workshop and public hearing schedule to be discussed at Planning Board meeting on 1 10.
 - d. Current income threshold for building in the Ag Zone is \$15,000.
 - e. Alternative to income standard is difficult to develop. Staff is working to develop a scoring/mapping matrix to differentiate areas within the zone.
 - f. Building is now possible on a 10 acre lot under the income standard. In 2017 there was an exception established for a minimum of 6.1 acres.
 - g. Council draft amendment excludes areas of the zone within the Lake Auburn watershed.
 - h. City Council is not constrained by the Planning Board recommendation but could ultimately be challenged legally.
 - i. There will be four new Planning Board members in January.
2. Further discussion:

- a. Significant changes in tax rates within the Ag Zone have potential to change State revenue sharing. This should be explored prior to any changes.
 - b. Any public meetings on this issue should be recorded to make them available to the general public unable to attend.
 - c. Royal River Conservation Trust has developed a Co-occurrence conservation model covering parts of South Auburn which may be useful in classifying areas within the zone.
3. 3. Minutes for 8 30 22, 9 27 22 and 11 29 22 were approved.
 4. Kathy needs to step down as chair due to responsibilities in the Maine House, but will stay on the working group. New chair should be identified in January.

New Business: None

Action Items: None

Next meetings: Jan 31, 2023, 6:00 pm, Community Room, Auburn City Hall.

Pending agenda items:

1. Selection of 2023 officers, Chair and Secretary
2. 2023 Work Plan development

Adjourned: 7:47 PM