

Auburn Natural Products and Agriculture Working Group

Minutes: 6 27 23 Approved: 8 29 23

Location: Bell Farms Office

Recorder: Dave Griswold

Staff attending: None

Attending: Dave Griswold, Joe Gray, David Bell, Chris Carson, Pam Rousseau

Excused: Kathy Shaw, Chelsea Eaton, Michelle Malagnaro

Absent: Katie Boss, Ed Michaud

Guests: NA

Call to Order: 6:15 pm

Public Participation: None

1. **Minutes:** 5 30 23 2023 minutes were approved.
2. FYI- There will be a Local Food Action Plan meeting on 7 13 from 6:00-7:30 at the Senior Center.
3. Work Plan update and planning
 - a. 4H: Joe reported that he has had discussions with 4H groups in Turner and Gorham. 4H is easy to start if there is interest. 4H is not just Agriculture at this point. Pam will contact EL to explore options for 4H or discussion about Agriculture at career class. Other potential resources are Julie Harper and the Grange.
 - b. Plan to visit community gardens at future summer meeting when weather permits, to get user feedback on the program.
 - c. City Ag grants: Joe will have information in late August about how the City voucher program was implemented and how it was used. There were two Commercial Farm grants awarded. Joe is looking for details. We will review the findings and consider options for 2024.
 - d. Discussion of concept of Local Food Expo: Idea is to convene local institutional food consumers and discuss what they need for product and if a cooperative to develop processing capacity is possible. Potential invitees include Bates, CMMC, EL, Lewiston HS, Good Shepard, Schooner, Montello, Clover, St Mary's, CMMC,

Green Label as well as Bell Farms, Belanger Farms, Wallingford, Ricker, Blackie's. Joe, David, Chris and Dave will develop plan and begin making contacts.

- e. Mapping Project needs future development as a community resource and education tool. Potential to develop a presentation for the City Council and citizens.
 - f. Land Use Forum in May was a success. Plan is to repeat it in March 2024, expanding participation if possible.
4. Ag Zone Income requirement alternative moving forward. City Council and Planning Board will have additional meetings on the subject in July and August. Specific schedule to be determined.

New Business: None

Next meetings: July 25

Pending agenda items:

1. Community Gardens
2. Selection of 2023 officers, Chair and Secretary
3. 2023 Work Plan development

Adjourned: 7:25 PM

