

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

Minutes 3 26 26 Approved 4 23 26

**Location:** Auburn Hall, Room 204

**Recorder:** Dave Griswold

**Staff attending:** None

**Attending:** Dave Griswold, Chloe Meyers, Grant Roberts, Chris Carson. Camille Parrish

**Excused:** Kathy Shaw, Pam Rousseau, David Bell, Joe Gray

**Absent:**

**Guests:** Chris Piercy

**Call to Order:** 6:04 pm

**Public Participation:** None

1. **Minutes:** Approved minutes from 12 11 25
2. **Public Comment:** None
3. **Comp Plan Update:**
  - a. Jane Coslow's e:mail concerning cluster housing development was noted.
4. **Farm Plan Review Process:** Staff is working on a revision of the process to review and approve farm plans. It is expected to be reviewed at the SNRB meeting on April 9. There is a farm plan in staff hands that will need input once the process is defined.
5. **Native Plant Sale:** Androscoggin County SWCD will hold a native plant sale on May 15. Orders may be placed on the SWCD website. Order s should be places no less than tree weeks ahead. One pick up location will be Open Heart Farm on Sopers Mill Road.
6. **Chestnuts Across Maine:** the LACFB project to plant 10 chestnuts at the PAL Center in May was reviewed.
7. **School Food Processing Grant:** Chris Piercy provided an update on the School Departments work to process products from local farms to serve in school programs. The first year was a success, with 9000# processed last summer. The program is being documented and fine-tuned. Grant funding runs to June 2028. A documentary "Lunch Room Revolution" has been made for release in May.
8. **Recruitment:** Discussion of how to attract new members, including students, co-op staff, farmers. Discussion of potential community events and making meetings more fun.

**New Business: None:**

**Next meetings: April 23** Focus will be Farm and Forest Day/Crawl

**Adjourned: 7:14 PM**