

Natural Products and Agriculture Working Group

Minutes 10 30 25 Approved 12 11 25

Location: Auburn Hall, Room 204

Recorder: Dave Griswold

Staff attending: None

Attending: Kathy Shaw, Dave Griswold, Cloe Meyers, Grant Meyers, David Bell, Chris Carson. Chelsea Eaton, Joe Gray

Excused: Stephanie Broido, Chris Peirce, Pam Rousseau

Absent: Ed Michaud

Guests:

Call to Order: 6:10 pm

Public Participation: None

1. **Minutes:** Approved minutes from 9 18 25
2. **Farm and Forest Tours 10 18 review:**
 - a. Consensus was that attendance was greater than last year, but was limited by other significant events in town the same day. Some visitors returned later on.
 - b. The basket drawing was well received and was of significant value. A picture of it could help with promotion next year.
 - c. After discussion, a draft plan included a kick off on Maine Open Farm, a “farm crawl” through the summer and a wrap up and drawing in the fall. Possibilities include an “I Spy” contest for kids, asking the library to host passport pickup and info about participating sites (poster with QR codes?), publicizing at Auburn schools and with home schoolers, and recruiting more participants especially to the north. Kathy will contact Donna Wallace at the library to explore possibilities.
3. **Schools Food Processing Grant:** Chris Piercy was not available and will provide an update in November.
4. **Joint meeting of all four working Groups:** Dave will raise the idea at the SNRB meeting in January. Last year’s meeting was a success but there are questions about follow up.
5. **East Auburn School Gardens:** Chloe reported on Good Food Council support for inground, raised bed and wheelchair accessible beds at East Auburn, along with Will Libby’s interest in reviving outdoor education at the former Land Lab Site adjacent to

the school. Dave was involved in setting up the original Auburn Land Lab and can be a resource.

6. **Good Food Council:** Chloe noted that the GFC would benefit from making connections with producers.

New Business: None:

Next meetings: November and December scheduled dates conflict with Thanksgiving and Christmas. Kathy will explore options and communicate back to the group.

Adjourned: 7:30 PM