Natural Products and Agriculture Working Group
Meeting Location: City Hall, Room 204
Date: Thursday, May 28th, 2026
Time: 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Members attending: Kathy Shaw, Dave Griswold, Chris Carson, Dave Bell, Pam Rousseau, Joe Gray, Grant Roberts, Chloe Meyers

Members not attending:

Staff in attendance: Sam Peikes and Eric Cousens

Guests:

Call to Order : **Approve last months Minutes: Yay or Nay**

Old Business : 10 Hemlock 3'x6'x16" raised garden beds have been built at East Auburn Community School! Wil Libby, of Evergreen Outdoor Education, kindly provided his labor constructing the beds *(ask for receipt for bed hardware to reimburse Wil).* Garbage to Gardens in Portland donated 2 yards of soil, **any volunteers available to pick up and deliver to EACS?**
Sean O'Connell, of Re-treeUs, has approval to plant and build a native edible orchard wherever the permanent garden will be (behind school).
July 26th, the last Sunday in July, is Maine Open Farm Day. Auburn's 3rd annual Farm Frolic, as Dave G might call it :) , has been held previously in mid/late October - hosting during the summer season may prove to be more fruitful. Auburn farms and homesteads will have the opportunity to welcome neighbors onto their farms, into their dooryard gardens, to say "hi" to cute animals in barns hopefully, etc. Dave G offered idea and example of a tri-fold map featuring a stamp-to-win prize, (visit a location, receive a stamp, most stamps from different locations on a tri-fold wins a prize, *free raffle last year went well and prize basket was great, see photo via email*) **Anyone willing to volunteer to design/print/distribute? Modes of distribution? Tri-fold collection after the frolic?**

New Business: Farm Plans - NPAG group has been included in the farm plan approval process to the extent of offering feedback to planners. **How can NPAG group be supportive in the short-term and long-term to planners and our neighbors?** Timeline of farm plan viewing/discussion by group to be determined, it has been noted that“special meetings” cannot easily be accommodated by the group.