

Stockbridge Agricultural and Forestry Commission Meeting

November 6, 2023 Minutes

Present

Agricultural and Forestry Commission	Guests
Mathieu Boudreau, chair Erik Rasmussen, co-chair (via Zoom) Lisa Bozzuto Shelby Marshall (via Zoom) Abigail Fredsall	Patrick White Jeff Jourdain Laura Dubester (via Zoom)

1. Matt called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.
 - a. Matt made a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting of August 28.
Motion approved unanimously.
2. **Updates:** Tree Cuttings for Arbor Day
 - a. Abby looked at the cuttings today. About half of them look good.
3. **Updates:** Ice Glen Measurements
 - a. Bob Leverett is doing measurements – he sent an update to Patrick White, who forwarded it to the AFC. Several of the large trees have grown since last measured, and they are sequestering more carbon.
4. **Discussion:** Composting in Stockbridge
 - a. Matt and Abby had a good discussion with Laura Dubester recently. The Green Team gave lots of good resources. A few businesses are composting already, using a commercial company. It will be useful to talk to them.
 - b. Our goals: educate people about composting (what to include, how, etc.), and ultimately trying to work with the Highway Dept. to run a composting service at the Transfer Station.
5. **Discussion:** Town Property Site Visits and Stewardship Plans for Town Forests
 - a. Stockbridge Mountain walk: It was scheduled for Friday, October 20, but it was rained out.
 - b. Jeff will email us the current application form (FY 2024).
 - c. Matt made a motion to submit a cost-share climate resiliency application for the Stockbridge Mountain Stewardship Plan. Passed unanimously.
6. **Discussion:** AFC Mission Statement
 - a. Erik's draft: The mission of the Agricultural and Forestry Commission is to promote the protection and preservation of farms, farmland, and forests by promoting agricultural economic opportunities as businesses and community resources and encouraging efforts to maximize forest health and carbon sequestration by engaging in practices that imitate nature and employ a gradient of old growth restoration strategies.
 - b. Matt made a motion to make this draft the Commission's Mission Statement. Passed unanimously.
7. **New Business:** Affordable Housing farming.
 - a. Patrick White raised a new topic, which we will put on our next agenda. As part of an Affordable Housing production plan the town is working on, he would like to explore including a plan for building houses for small farmers.
 - b. The general response was positive. Patrick will send us information, questions, resources, and we'll discuss it at a future meeting.
8. **Adjournment:** Confirm next meeting date and time
 - a. Next meeting is Monday, December 4.
 - b. At 7:28 pm Matt made a motion to adjourn. Passed unanimously.