

# Stockbridge Agricultural and Forestry Commission Meeting December 4, 2023 Minutes

**Present**

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

1. Matt called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm.
  - a. Matt made a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting of August 28. Motion approved unanimously.
2. **Updates:** Stewardship Plans
  - a. Matt sent the proposal to Michael Canales, who sent it in. We haven't gotten confirmation.
  - b. We had a Forest Management Plan done in 2012, which might affect the amount of match we get.
3. **Updates:** Farmers Market
  - a. Matt talked to Stuart last week. He has about a half dozen interested participants. Still working on a big anchor. Matt asked him to come to our February meeting to update us. He may also come to our January meeting.
4. **Discussion:** Composting in Stockbridge
  - a. Lisa got information from Sheffield. She talked to Rene Wood, who got composting going there. They use Berkshire Compost. Pick up 4x/week. It's delivered to Stanton Farm. Paid for by transfer fees. Erik said that Berkshire Compost, another company that does pickups, provides materials, including containers for home use.
  - b. Abby and Matt talked to Mark Buffoni (Transfer Station). He's excited about the possibilities. We'll find out how many bins the hauler recommends putting at the Transfer Station. Mark could clean the bins when he's on duty.
  - c. Education is important. Rene suggested we distribute materials from Cornell. Matt wants to find out how many residents would be interested in participating. Mark will put a sheet on a clipboard up at the Transfer Station. He thought it would be best to start in the winter, so that we build up the system before the summer people arrive.
  - d. Lisa and Abby will arrange a site visit to Sheffield to see how they're doing it.
5. **Discussion:** Affordable Housing for Farmers/Farm Crews
  - a. There are two committees in the State government that deal with housing. This Friday at 5:00 Patrick and Matt will have a Zoom meeting with someone from the State about it.
  - b. Erik pointed out that many farms have APR development restrictions. Mass. Agricultural Resources manages this program.
  - c. Farms need workers from mid-April through November. Most workers look for roommates to share the rent. Many workers rent in ADUs.
  - d. There are a couple of federal programs for farm housing, but they weren't funded in 2023. We don't know if they will be funded again.
6. **Adjournment:** Confirm next meeting date and time
  - a. Next meeting is Monday, January 8.
  - b. At 7:14 pm Matt made a motion to adjourn. Passed unanimously.