

Stockbridge Agricultural and Forestry Commission Meeting

June 6, 2022 Minutes

Present

Agricultural and Forestry Commission	Guests
Mathieu Boudreau, chair Lisa Bozzuto Abigail Fredsall Shelby Marshall Erik Rasmussen	Aviva Klein Michelle Zhu

1. Matt called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm.
 - a. Matt made a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting of May 2. Motion approved unanimously.
2. **Update:** Ice Glen Treatment
 - a. It is starting tomorrow. Michael Canales can give more info.
 - b. The owners of the driveway that will be the staging area will talk to Ken Gooch tomorrow.
 - c. We assume Ken has marked the trees.
 - d. We haven't received the RFP, proposal, etc., from Mike yet. Matt will check with him to make sure signs are up telling people what is being done.
 - e. Matt has asked Ken for the number of trees that have died.
3. **Conversation:** Farm Crew Housing
 - a. Guests: Aviva Klein and Michelle Zhu, Farm Crew Members at Woven Roots Farm
 - b. Michelle moved to GB last Nov. from Norfolk, CT, where she worked on a farm. She moved to be close to Woven Roots Farm. It was hard to find housing. She tried Craigs list and all of the other standard websites. Rent is half of her monthly income. There are few others in the area who are her age group or are non-white. It would be hard for someone like her to move here. If you don't have connections in the area it will be hard. The lack of community is alienating.
 - c. Aviva moved to GB 2 months ago. The only reason she's there rather than elsewhere is that it's the only place she could find listings. There's nothing in a 30–40 minute radius around Tyringham (where the farm is). There's a Facebook group that was somewhat helpful. One FB group looked promising, but the housing was all in the CT River valley area. What she found was quite competitive – someone looking for a roommate. There were >1 bdrm options available, but she didn't know anyone here to share with. Other farms she has worked at provided housing on the farm. The cost of housing is making her wonder if she will stay.
 - d. Stockbridge didn't show up in the searches.
 - e. There is an issue of finding roommates, which may be solvable.
 - f. Ideally they would want to be hired year-round on a farm, but they are willing to find winter work locally.
 - g. One idea: barter free CSA for renting a room in your house.
 - h. We should talk to Berkshire Grown to find out how many farms are in the Berkshires, and how many seasonal workers they hire.
 - i. Talk to Greenagers
4. **Update:** Warrant to increase AFV to Five Members
 - a. Shelby and Abby should send Patrick an email saying that we want to be appointed, and attend the Thursday SB meeting if possible.

- i. (Follow-up: Shelby attended the SB meeting, and both he and Abby were appointed, pending approval of the bylaw by the State.)
- 5. **Discussion:** Goals for Rest of 2022
 - a. We'll take a break for 2 months over the summer.
 - b. Farmers Market:
 - i. Matt has not heard any discussion from the SB. We will start the process of asking the town to hire a coordinator. That has to be approved at Town Meeting. We want to hold it at the Town Offices (outside or inside depending on weather).
 - c. Tree City Application:
 - i. Matt has sent the Tree Warden an email asking for data that we'll need for the application. We also need an annual report: number of trees planted, removed, etc.
 - ii. The SB needs to make a proclamation that the town recognizes Arbor Day (before Dec. 31).
 - iii. Lisa will be the contact for the application.
 - d. Ice Glen Monitoring
 - i. At some point Ken should submit an updated report on how the trees are doing.
 - ii. Ask Ken: when will we know how it's working?
 - iii. We need to keep looking at alternative treatments.
 - e. Town Forest "Philosophy"
 - i. We want to get copies of the current and new forest management plans, talk to Tom Ryan (DCR), etc.
 - ii. We want to see the property that surrounds the reservoir.
 - iii. We want to find out what authority our commission has. The bylaw setting us up says "advise".
- 6. **Adjournment** — Confirm next meeting date and time
 - a. Next meeting is Monday, August 29, at 6:30.
 - b. At 7:35 pm Matt made a motion to adjourn. Passed unanimously.