

Stockbridge Agricultural and Forestry Commission Meeting Jointly with Conservation Commission February 6, 2023 Minutes

Present

Agricultural and Forestry Commission	Guests
Mathieu Boudreau, chair Erik Rasmussen, co-chair (via Zoom) Lisa Bozzuto Abigail Fredsall (via Zoom) Shelby Marshall	Mike Canales Con. Com. Sally Underwood-Miller

1. Matt called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm.
 - a. Matt made a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting of January 9. Motion approved unanimously.
2. **Update:** Farmers Market
 - a. Mike has the job description for the manager ready to send out. He'll send AFC copies tomorrow.
3. **Discussion (with Con. Com.):** Invasive Species affecting our forests around Stockbridge Bowl and other waterways.
 - a. Create a pamphlet that gives guidance for how to recognize invasives on ash and hemlock.
 - b. No chemical treatment allowed in wetlands or around waterways.
 - c. Trees that are removed must be replaced by native species. We can provide a list of species.
 - d. DCR has useful brochures. Also, Con. Com. is developing a brochure about activities that require a permit.
 - e. Great Barrington also has a brochure that might be useful.
 - f. John Hart has offered to donate a brochure rack that we can put in the Town Offices.
 - g. We can put PDFs on the Town website. AFC will have our own landing page in the new website that will launch in a couple of months.
4. **Discussion:** Town Forest visit and Stewardship Plan
 - a. February 24, 2:00 pm for Stockbridge Mtn. is good for Matt, Lisa, Shelby
 - b. March 18 or 25, 10:00 am for the watershed is good for Matt, Lisa, Shelby
 - c. Stewardship Plans: Let's apply for one for Stockbridge Mtn. and for Ice Glen
5. **Discussion:** What to add to the AFC Annual Report
 - a. We reviewed what AFC did over the last year, and Matt made notes.
 - b. Reminder: All Commissioners need to complete the Annual Ethics Requirements
6. **Other:** Sally was told about a report that looked at high levels of cancer in dogs and cats, caused by the combination of toxic chemicals in the river and in its flood plain (PCBs, creosote, herbicides used by the railroads and utilities, etc.). She doesn't know if there are high incidents of cancer in farm animals. The study was done by local vets. She is looking for it. She'll share whatever she finds with AFC.
7. **Arbor Day 2024:** Abby has talked to Mr. Florek at Monument Mtn. High School. He has various tree cuttings; they haven't rooted yet but there's a good chance they will. If they get far enough, we can give them out.
8. **Adjournment:** Confirm next meeting date and time
 - a. Next meeting is Monday, March 6, at 6:30.
 - b. At 7:18 pm Matt made a motion to adjourn. Passed unanimously.