

# Stockbridge Agricultural and Forestry Commission Meeting

## Jointly with Conservation Commission

### April 3, 2023 Minutes

#### Present

Agricultural and Forestry Commission	Guests
Mathieu Boudreau, chair Erik Rasmussen, co-chair (via Zoom) Lisa Bozzuto Abigail Fredsall Shelby Marshall	Jamie Minacci, Conservation Commission  Pat Flinn, Laurel Hill Association  Natalie Narotzky, Co-founder and Chair of Great Barrington Strategic Sustainability & Livability Committee

1. Matt called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm.
  - a. Matt made a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting of March 6. Lisa provided a correction: She did not attend the Forest Focus Group virtual meeting; instead, she watched the recorded session. With that correction, motion approved unanimously.
2. **Updates:** Farmers Market
  - a. One person has applied for the manager position. Matt and Mike will interview him.
3. **Updates:** Arbor Day 2023
  - a. Abby said that the HS has started cuttings, but they haven't rooted yet. They won't be ready for Arbor Day in April. If we want to hold an Arbor Day later in the year, we may need to order plants.
4. **Updates:** Town Forest visit
  - a. Will reschedule the walk for May.
  - b. Forest Stewardship Plan: Shelby will fill out the application and send it to the Commission and Mike Canales. Once we and Mike have reviewed it, we'll send it to Jeff Jordain (forester) for his review, hopefully before our next meeting. At our next meeting we'll vote on it, and then Mike will submit it.
5. **Updates:** Laurel Hill and Ice Glen
  - a. Guest Pat Flinn. Pat Flinn, Kate Fletcher, and Jim Schantz did their first periodic visit to Ice Glen in October.
    - i. They replaced trail blazes where needed.
    - ii. They noted two downed trees across the trail.
    - iii. They removed some dead material.
    - iv. The bridge had one missing slat. Jim replaced it the next day.
    - v. They took photos.
    - vi. The next day Pat sent a brief assessment to Mike Canales, copying the Highway Dept. The next day the Highway Dept. took care of the two trees.
    - vii. LHA will do another assessment soon. They'll aim to do one in Spring, one in Summer, and one in Fall, plus possibly after a major wind or storm event.
  - b. Mike has the Old Growth Forest Network signs. We'll get them and pass them to Pat, who will put them up at both ends of the trail. We'll join her when she does it.
6. **Discussion (with Con. Com.):** Invasive Species affecting our forests around Stockbridge Bowl and other waterways.

- a. Printouts for Town Meeting/Online links
    - i. We chose the species to include.
    - ii. Shelby will pull the relevant pages from the brochures and assemble them into a new brochure.
    - iii. We'll review it at the next meeting, and ask Mike Canales to get a few copies made.
7. **Discussion:** Composting
  - a. Natalie Narotsky: GB has been thinking about composting. Their committee had two restaurant owners, who wanted to see if the Town could do a hauling program. That couldn't happen. Next, they started to look at what could be done at the Transfer Station. That wasn't practical due to space. Sheffield is doing a compost program at their transfer station, working with a private compost hauler. There are a few private haulers that contract with homeowners. GB wasn't keen on promoting specific companies. The committee looked for funding, and they found the Recycling Dividends Program, but all the funds had been committed by the time they found it. It's annual, so it can be approached again this year.
  - b. Think about food waste vs. yard waste
  - c. Matt said that the Town may purchase a wood chipper.
  - d. Abby looked into the DEP Sustainable Materials Recovery Program and the Recycling Dividends Program. Towns get funding. Town earns points for doing various things.
  - e. We'll contact the DEP programs and talk to them about ideas and possibilities.
8. **Adjournment:** Confirm next meeting date and time
  - a. Next meeting is Monday, May 1, at 6:30. We'll make it a joint meeting again, to talk about the brochures.
  - b. At 7:50 pm Matt made a motion to adjourn. Passed unanimously.

## To Do

Matt:

- Get in touch with Ken Gooch to schedule an inspection of the hemlocks in Ice Glen.

Shelby:

- Compile brochure about invasives.
- Fill out application for Forest Stewardship Plan.