

Stockbridge Agricultural and Forestry Commission Meeting

Jointly with Conservation Commission

March 6, 2023 Minutes

Present

Agricultural and Forestry Commission	Conservation Commission
Mathieu Boudreau, chair Erik Rasmussen, co-chair (via Zoom) Lisa Bozzuto Abigail Fredsall (via Zoom) Shelby Marshall (via Zoom)	Sally Underwood-Miller John Hart Ron Brouker Jamie Minacci

1. Matt called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm.
 - a. Matt made a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting of February 6. Motion approved unanimously.
2. **Updates:** Farmers Market Manager
 - a. We have one application so far. Matt and Erik attended an event where they were able to meet potential managers, and it might lead to more applications.
 - b. Matt and Erik will try to participate in interviews with Mike Canales.
 - c. There is no deadline for applications; we'll keep advertising until we hire someone.
3. **Updates:** Forest Focus Group
 - a. Lisa watched the recorded session that was geared to North County. Participants are partnering with DCR, foresters, and the Stockbridge-Munsee Community.
 - b. We may at some point talk to others in South County to see if we might work together, modeling after the North County people.
4. **Discussion:** Town Forest visit and Stewardship Plan
 - a. Recap, Hike on Stockbridge Mountain: We did not do the walk, because a major ice storm had made the conditions too dangerous. We reconvened at the library. Jeff (forester) and Colin (DCR forester) gave us a good overview of the property. It is surrounded by steep slopes, so it is hard to access. Big equipment can't get in. Woolly Adelgid has been seen there. The forest is largely oak. The property also contains wetlands. The last stewardship plan was done 10 years ago. The lowland section that is fairly accessible is the best part to look at for active management.
 - b. Re: planting new trees: They haven't been able to find native tree seedlings from the area – they've had to buy them from the Midwest. The seedlings are inexpensive; the major cost is the plastic tubes that protect the seedlings from deer. We may be able to coordinate with the Monument Mtn High School program to grow seedlings.
 - c. Rescheduled the walk for March 25, 10:00 am. Matt, Lisa, Shelby will attend
 - d. Stewardship Plans: New plans are available with a focus on climate resilience. Let's apply for Stockbridge Mtn. and for Ice Glen.
5. **Discussion (with Con. Com.):** Invasive Species affecting our forests around Stockbridge Bowl and other waterways.
 - a. Resource list for Online and Print
 - b. John Hart will provide a brochure rack that we can put into Town Offices. Matt will look at the variety of racks John has, and pick one that will suit our needs. Also, John can connect us with someone who will print materials very cheaply.
 - c. John suggested that we provide information about removing invasive plants without using commercial herbicides. Everyone agreed.

- d. Matt will pass materials to Shelby, who will compile them into a spreadsheet that the Commission can work on.
 - e. We want to have everything ready to display at Town Meeting. We'll also see if we can post a "virtual" brochure rack on the town website. Also, see John's website, which has a virtual rack: visitortips.com
 - f. John said there's some old-growth forest on private land that he knows about. He will help us arrange to see it.
6. **Discussion:** Composting
- a. Matt has had conversations with people who would like the town to do composting. Also, the state wants to reduce organic waste in garbage.
 - b. He's talked to someone in Great Barrington who is looking into it, but the logistics and administrative issues are challenging.
 - c. Lisa said that Riggs is composting. She'll find out who is managing it.
 - d. The Stockbridge Highway Dept. and Parks and Recreation Commission are also interested in working something out. There's a lot to work out, re: hauling the materials to a central location, having a drop-off location, managing the compost pile, etc.
 - e. The state DEP might have grants that will help. Maybe MVP? We should invite Laura Dubester (chair of the Green Team) to a meeting to talk about it.
7. **Adjournment:** Confirm next meeting date and time
- a. Next meeting is Monday, April 3, at 6:30. We'll make it a joint meeting again, to talk about the brochures.
 - b. At 7:34 pm Matt made a motion to adjourn. Passed unanimously.