

Stockbridge Agricultural and Forestry Commission Meeting June 5, 2023 Minutes

Present

Agricultural and Forestry Commission	Guests
Mathieu Boudreau, chair Erik Rasmussen, co-chair (via Zoom) Lisa Bozzuto Shelby Marshall Abigail Fredsall	Ken Gooch Stuart Kelso

1. Matt called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.
 - a. Matt made a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting of May 1. Motion approved unanimously.
2. **Update:** Invasive Species Handouts at Town Meeting
 - a. Matt set up right outside the gym. It was very successful. Lots of people took handouts. Most of the printouts were taken.
3. **Update:** OGFN Signs in Ice Glen
 - a. Lisa went to Ice Glen with Pat Flinn. They put up two big signs. There are also two small signs that will be put up.
4. **Discussion:** Ice Glen Treatment
 - a. **Guest:** Ken Gooch. He walked through the entire glen on Saturday. A few ash trees have died, but not because of EAB. The hemlocks are in tough shape. The treatment did help. But the trees were in poor shape before treatment was done, and last year's drought added extra stress. Also, because some of the trees didn't have a lot of foliage, the treatment was less effective – the trees need a lot of foliage to pull the treatment up to the top of the trees. Several trees are not putting out new growth. Ken expects more trees to die.
 - b. A few of the dead trees may fall across the trail. Ken will flag them. Laurel Hill Assoc. will monitor them and let us know if any become a danger.
 - c. There are more trees that are worth treating. We'll use the remaining money from the grant.
 - d. New trees that are growing include red maple, black birch, sugar maple, pines, yellow birch.
 - e. Ken will re-inject the ash trees next week.
5. **Discussion:** Farmers Market Evaluation
 - a. **Guest:** Stuart Kelso.
 - b. There's very little interest among vendors to do a market in 2023.
 - c. A successful farmer's market has to have one or more anchors – major farms. Gt. Barr. has a couple of anchors. One of them has pulled out because of the economics. A major vendor in Pittsfield has pulled out of that market.
 - d. Blue Hill is interested for 2024. Matt talked to a maple syrup producer in Stockbridge, and he is interested for 2024.
 - e. Stuart has learned about Berkshire Mobile Farmers Market. It will be run by Berkshire Grown, with a USDA grant, to target low-income populations. It will serve two low-income areas in Becket. They were not looking at Stockbridge, but Stuart told them about Heaton Court, and he will tell them about Pine Woods. They're interested. They'll need a grant to cover it. Stuart will meet with Berkshire Grown tomorrow.
 - f. Berkshire Bounty may be able to have a mobile farmers market come to Heaton Court and Pine Woods in 2023 if Berkshire Grown cannot.

- g. Matt asked for a report focused on 2024.
 - h. Wednesday is probably the only day we can do a farmer's market, based on when the other nearby markets are held.
6. **Discussion:** Town Property Site Visits / Stewardship Plan Application
- a. Watershed walk was on May 26. Shelby attended, along with Mike Buffoni, Jeff Jourdain, and Colin Mettey (DCR)
 - b. Stockbridge Mountain walk: Shelby will look for a Saturday in September.
7. **Discussion:** AFC Mission Statement
- a. There was discussion about the latest draft. Erik suggested a brief alternative. He will share his wording with the rest of the Commission, and we will discuss the statement further at our next meeting.
8. **Adjournment:** Confirm next meeting date and time
- a. Next meeting is Monday, Aug. 28.
 - b. At 7:51 pm Matt made a motion to adjourn. Passed unanimously.