

Stockbridge Agricultural and Forestry Commission Meeting

August 29, 2022 Minutes

Present

Agricultural and Forestry Commission	Guests
Mathieu Boudreau, chair Lisa Bozzuto Abigail Fredsall Shelby Marshall Erik Rasmussen	Patrick White

1. Matt called the meeting to order at 6:40 pm.
 - a. Matt made a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting of June 6. Motion approved unanimously.
2. **Update:** Ice Glen Treatment
 - a. The ash trees are doing well. They may need additional treatment next year, but it's low cost.
 - b. The hemlocks were treated with a slow uptake system. Also, access to the trees was difficult. This resulted in treating only 47 trees. The situation is urgent (trees are dying), so we'll treat more trees in the next couple of weeks with injection and then treat as many more as we can with basal bark spraying. This hybrid approach is necessary because of the timing and the state of the trees.
3. **Update:** USDA and MVP Grants
 - a. We were awarded the USDA invasives suppression grant for Ice Glen (\$70K).
 - b. We did not apply for the MVP grant. We can apply for one in 2023, starting in Feb. This would be a planning grant.
 - c. Forest Stewardship Plan grant for Ice Glen: we need to find out about its status.
4. **Update:** Tree City USA
 - a. Matt and Lisa are trying to get a tree report from the Tree Warden (trees planted and taken down).
 - b. Lisa is hesitant to proceed without the Tree Warden's participation. We'll put it aside this year and aim to do it next year.
5. **Update:** Farmers Market
 - a. Matt has had conversations with flower farmers and other suppliers (e.g., maple products). He's heard that vegetable farms are the hardest to attract.
 - b. There may be money available to hire a coordinator. Patrick said that the person who coordinates the Lenox market may be interested in coordinating ours.
 - c. We want to hold it at Town Offices
 - d. It might be good to coordinate it with the new regional on-demand shuttle bus and the regularly scheduled regional transportation.
 - e. Schedule a meeting with Select Board at their Sept. 22 meeting.
 - i. Agenda: To request approval to establish a farmer's market in 2023, approve the use of the area around the Town Offices, approve a budget of no more than \$10,000, clarify what the Select Board and Michael Canales need to write a job description, and prepare to hire a coordinator.
6. **Discussion:** Carbon Sequestration in Old Growth Forests
 - a. Managing an area of town forest for old growth or late succession features.
 - b. Consider Stockbridge Mountain and the adjoining lot. Total = 310 acres
 - c. We should talk to the forester who works for the Water and Sewer Dept.
 - d. We should do outreach to the community to tell people who own large lots how to assess the age of their forests, and inform them about how to encourage carbon sequestration / old growth restoration.

- e. Apply for a grant to do a Forest Stewardship Plan for old growth restoration. We could also apply for CPA funding. And for an MVP grant.
 - f. Bob Leverett wants to set up a plot in Ice Glen to do a study of carbon sequestration. Lisa will keep us informed.
7. **Discussion:** America Farmland Trust (federal)
- a. Farmland of Local Importance
 - b. Someone reached out to Matt. They are updating their soil maps to help farmland get put into Agricultural Land Easements. A certain percentage of the land needs to be “farmland of local importance.”
 - c. They wanted Matt to verify that the soils on their map are on the list of soils of local importance. A state organization has verified the list.
 - i. Motion made to approve Matt verifying the Farmland of Local Importance document. Passed unanimously.
8. **Adjournment:** Confirm next meeting date and time
- a. Next meeting is Monday, October 3, at 6:30.
 - b. At 7:54 pm Matt made a motion to adjourn. Passed unanimously.

Motions passed:

Approve Matt verifying the Farmland of Local Importance document.