

Stockbridge Agricultural and Forestry Commission Meeting JUNE 7, 2021 Minutes

Present

Agricultural and Forestry Commission	Guests
Mathieu Boudreau Erik Rasmussen Lisa Bozzuto Shelby Marshall (Alternate)	Patrick White CTSB: Steven Borns

- Matt called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.
- Matt made a motion to approve May 17th Minutes
 - Approved unanimously
- **Ice Glen Discussion**
 - Lisa said that everything we need when we look for funding is in Ken Gooch's report
 - Matt made a motion to certify the report
 - Approved unanimously.
 - Lisa wants to get information about how to apply for a suppression grant.
 - She sent an email about this, but it did not get distributed. She will send it to Matt, who will make sure it gets distributed.
 - Matt found a report about managing culturally important areas: HWA IPM Manager Guide.
 - Lisa said that woolly adelgid is all over the Laurel Hill Association properties: Laurel Hill Park, Mary Flynn Trail, Laura's Tower trail. LHA should be informed.
 - Patrick notified Hilary Deely (LHA president) last week.
 - Patrick recommended that the Commission reach out to LHA.
 - Lisa suggested inviting LHA members to a Commission meeting to discuss an overall approach to the contiguous forests.
 - Shelby will contact LHA board members, inviting them to the next meeting.
- **Right to Farm Bylaw**
 - Patrick confirmed today that it is an exact match with the State model bylaw, with the only change being "Stockbridge" replacing "Your town here"
- **Old Growth Forest Network**
 - Lisa asked why the designation was not approved by the Select Board when it came up a few years ago. Shelby explained that the Select Board did not want a lot of new visitors to turn Ice Glen into another Monument Mountain.
 - There are no costs involved, and the only requirement is that the Town promise that we do not do commercial logging there.
 - Lisa suggested that we try again.
 - Lisa made a motion that the Commission ask the OGFN to send a letter to the Select Board. The Commission will support it.
 - Motion passed unanimously
- **Forest Stewardship Plan grants**

- o Lisa wants to be sure the stewardship plan for Ice Glen will not recommend any actions we don't want to do.
- o Shelby offered to ask the LHA board to share with us the Forest Stewardship Plan that was developed for the property that Laura's Tower Trail is on.
 - Shelby will ask this when he contacts LHA about the Ice Glen.
- o Lisa said that she would like the Commission to determine what issues we want the plan to address.
- o Patrick said that Select Board has authorized him to apply for the grant, which means the Commission submit a grant application
 - Lisa and Shelby will work on the application together and give it to the Commission to review.
 - Shelby will call the state person who manages the grants to tell him our plan and make sure we will not be too late to get the money.
- **Tree City Status**
 - o Lisa said that getting the designation will give the Town access to the state forester. She did this in Great Barrington. The town gets lots of free services from the state.
 - o Stockbridge would need to celebrate Arbor Day, have a tree bylaw, and a few other things.
 - o The application is a lot of work. We need to renew it every year, but that is easy.
 - o Lisa suggested we invite the town Tree Warden (Mark Faber) to attend a Commission meeting to discuss applying.
 - Matt will get in touch with him to schedule a meeting.
- **Adjournment** - Set next meeting date and time
 - o Next meeting is Monday, July 12, at 6:30
 - o At 7:25 pm Matt made a motion to adjourn. Passed unanimously.

Motions

1. Matt made a motion to approve Ken Gooch's *Ice Glen Tree Health Report 2021*. Passed unanimously.
2. Lisa made a motion to ask the Old Growth Forest Network to send a letter to the Select Board recommending that Ice Glen be designated an Old Growth Forest. The Agricultural and Forestry Commission will support the request. Passed unanimously.

To Do items

- Matt
 - o He will distribute to the Commission the letter that Lisa sent him about how to apply for state suppression grants (for Ice Glen)
 - o He will contact Mark Faber, Town Tree Warden, and invite him to attend a Commission meeting to discuss applying for Tree City Status.
- Lisa
 - o She will send a letter to the Old Growth Forest Network, asking them to send a letter to the Select Board requesting that the Town approve designating Ice Glen as an old growth forest.
 - o She will draft a letter from the Commission supporting the designation. (NOTE: This To Do item was not stated explicitly, so it needs to be confirmed.)

- Shelby
 - He will contact the Laurel Hill Association board and invite them to the next Commission meeting to discuss dealing with woolly adelgid on their properties that adjoin Ice Glen.
 - He will ask the LHA board to share with the Commission the Forest Stewardship Plan that was written for Ice Glen.
 - He will call the state DCR contact who manages the grants, to inform him of our plan and make sure we are not too late to qualify for funding.
- Lisa and Shelby
 - They will work on a Forest Stewardship Plan grant application for Ice Glen.
- The entire Commission
 - Will look at the spreadsheet of all Town properties (and the GIS map), and determine those properties for which to apply for Forest Stewardship Plans.