

Stockbridge Agricultural and Forestry Commission Meeting September 13, 2021 Minutes

Present

Agricultural and Forestry Commission	Guests
Mathieu Boudreau Erik Rasmussen Lisa Bozzuto Shelby Marshall (Alternate)	Michael Canales Patrick White

- Matt called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.
- Matt made a motion to approve the August 9th Minutes
 - Approved unanimously
- The guests who were listed in the agenda (Jon Jacobs, Kyle Byrnes, Bobbi Paley, and Stephen Reese) will attend the October meeting. They will talk about pesticide options for Ice Glen.
- **Ice Glen RFP Update:** Michael Canales
 - We got one bid. It was not aligned with the entire project. Michael suggested pulling the RFP (rejecting all bids) and revising the RFP.
 - One issue is that the RFP specified using a sprayed treatment. There is a limit to how much chemical may be sprayed per acre, and we have to treat so many trees that we would have exceeded the allowed limit. But if the treatment is injected instead of sprayed, there is no limit to how much we may use. Also, we need to require the chemicals are mixed on-site with supervision.
 - Because it will take time to release a new RFP, we need to wait until early Spring to do the treatment. Trees are going dormant now, and treatment won't work until they become active again in Spring.
 - Michael suggests hiring Ken Gooch to consult. He can help with revising the RFP and oversee pesticide application. Consultation rate = \$75/hr.
 - Place contract approval with Ken on the agenda for our October meeting.
 - The suppression grant deadline is late Oct. Michael will ask Ken to help with the application, so that we can get it done by the deadline.
- **Tree City Designation:** Lisa Bozzuto
 - Gives us access to state-level expertise and grants
 - We'll postpone the discussion until another meeting when Mark Faber can attend.
- **Tree By-Law Discussion:** Lisa Bozzuto and others
 - Tree Warden has control of public trees and shrubs.
 - Tree Warden can make regulations, and when approved by Select Board have the power of by-laws
 - The AFC can work with the Tree Warden to ensure that there are regulations to cover all important issues.

- Planning Board has authority over some aspects of private trees.
- State regulates wetlands, scenic mountains
- Matt will reach out to Mark Faber to get him to a meeting
- **Old Growth Forest Network**
 - We need to set a date for the dedication ceremony. The Select Board will set it. The AFC will plan to attend.
- **Adjournment** - Confirm next meeting date and time
 - Next meeting is Monday, October 4, at 6:30. It will be hybrid Zoom plus in-person.
 - At 7:12 pm Matt made a motion to adjourn. Passed unanimously.

To Do items

- Matt
 - Reach out to Mark Faber to get him to a meeting
- Michael
 - Reach out to Ken Gooch about consulting on RFP for Ice Glen treatment and on the Suppression Grant application
 - Work with Select Board to set a date for the Ice Glen Old Growth Forest dedication ceremony