

# Stockbridge Agricultural and Forestry Commission Meeting December 6, 2021 Minutes

## Present

Agricultural and Forestry Commission	Guests
Mathieu Boudreau Erik Rasmussen Lisa Bozzuto Shelby Marshall (Alternate)	Chuckie Cardillo Julie Coop Jordan Archey

- Matt called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.
- Matt made a motion to approve the meeting of Nov. 1.
  - Lisa had a correction: seedlings from Arbor Day are not free. There is a small fee.
  - With that correction, motion approved unanimously
- **Discussion: Tree City Designation**
  - Guest: Julie Coop, Urban & Community Forestry State Coordinator at DCR
    - Matthew Cahill is the new representative for Western MA. Julie covers the eastern part of the state. Matt is an urban forester.
    - We have to apply online annually for the designation. Due Dec. 31.
      - We don't need to do anything other than what we're already doing.
    - They give annual matching grants (50%). \$1,000 to \$40,000.
      - Volunteer hours, in-kind services, and donated materials and tools can count toward the match.
      - The Tree Warden and DPW budget count toward the budget requirement.
      - Environmental Justice neighborhoods get a 25% match. It's a state designation.
    - Grants are used for inventories, plantings, heritage tree care, and other things, e.g., developing an adopt-a-tree program, developing a nursery.
    - Can't fund ongoing projects such as watering, pruning trees (except for heritage trees).
    - If a city is a Tree City, they get extra points when applying for grants.
    - Annual statewide appropriation is about \$180K. Funds are from US Forest Service. Funds vary. The MA legislature does not support the program.
    - They want to see the enforcement of Chapter 87. E.g., notices in the newspaper about hearings. We do that.
    - They will attend events, and provide material to hand out.
    - Matt put forth a motion to start the process to apply in 2022. Lisa seconded. This motion was not voted on.
      - Erik said it would waste a lot of town resources with little upside.
      - The discussion explored ways to minimize the amount of work to be done by town employees and the Select Board.
    - Erik made a motion to get a copy of the application and provide it to the DPW and the Tree Warden and find out how much time it would take them to provide the required information. Motion passed unanimously.
    - Dates for grants:

- Oct 1: deadline for Intent to Apply letter
  - Nov. 1: deadline for full proposal.
- **Discussion: Farmers Market**
  - Guest: Jordan Archey, Program Manager at Berkshire Grown
    - Berkshire Grown is a resource for all farmers markets in the county
    - Matt has heard from a lot of people asking if we can have a farmers market. Now we are learning whether or not we can do one.
    - Erik said that his wife (Christine) started a farmers market in Gloucester. Location was important. Getting farmers is hard if there are other farmers markets within 15 minutes in any direction.
    - Jordan: Location is the most important thing. Parking is key.
    - Chuckie: we have several potential locations. We need to find out how many vendors would be interested.
    - Most farmers tend to do one market. If a market is successful enough, they might do more than one (with hired help).
    - Lee and Gt. Barrington are both on Saturday. If we do it on a weekday, we might get a different clientele. Local vs. weekenders.
    - If we're aiming for local people, it can be smaller. E.g., people picking up something for dinner on the way home from work.
      - Perhaps Thursday, 4-6 pm. W. Stockbridge is Thursday.
    - There's one at the Berkshire Mall. It gets a different crowd from the one in downtown Pittsfield. It gives senior coupons. Few markets do that.
    - For handicapped access, parking is key. It's good to have volunteers or other ambassadors who help get groceries to the cars.
    - Word of mouth is the best way to get people. Advertising is good, but making people feel welcome is most important.
    - Gt. B. has a steering committee that manages the market manager. Some towns use a volunteer manager. Jordan's market is managed by Berkshire Grown. She does not recommend a volunteer manager.
    - There are different requirements for who needs a health permit.
    - We discussed the idea of combining a farmers market and a crafts market. The consensus was that they should be kept separate.
    - Erik: we need to identify a manager and determine how we'll pay him/her.
    - We need to determine whether the town runs it or it is independent or run in another way.
    - If we can get some local sponsorship for the first year, that will jump start the budget and marketing.
    - Let's have a joint AFC/Select Board meeting in Jan. to start a discussion.
    - Also talk to the Chamber of Commerce. They would provide marketing.
- **Update: Ice Glen OGFN Dedication**
  - Let's add this to the joint SB / AFC meeting, to plan an event in the Spring.
- **Adjournment** - Confirm next meeting date and time
  - Next meeting is Monday, January 3, at 6:30.
  - At 7:39 pm Matt made a motion to adjourn. Passed unanimously.

### **Motions (passed)**

To get a copy of the Tree City application, provide it to the DPW and the Tree Warden, and find out how much time it would take them to provide the required information.

**To Do items**

- Matt
  - o Send the SB a formal request to have a joint meeting in January to discuss the possibility of a farmers market, and to set a date for the OGFN Dedication.