

Stockbridge Agricultural and Forestry Commission Meeting

March 7, 2022 Minutes

Present

Agricultural and Forestry Commission	Guests
Mathieu Boudreau, chair Erik Rasmussen Lisa Bozzuto Shelby Marshall (Alternate) Abigail Fredsall (Alternate)	

1. Matt called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm.
 - a. Matt made a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting of Feb. 7. Motion approved unanimously.
2. **Updates:** Old Growth Forest Network Designation
 - a. May 6 is tentative, but it may be postponed. We'll know in mid-March.
 - b. We'll send out a press release. Sarah from OGFN will draft it.
 - c. We will check with Michael Canales about distribution of the press release, and also about asking the police dept. to manage parking in the playing field on Park St., if there are too many cars for the cul-de-sac.
3. **Updates:** Arbor Day Participation
 - a. Distribution day is April 23.
 - b. Abby has drafted a flyer with instructions for planting and maintenance of a seedling.
 - c. Lisa has requested 100 trees: Sugar maple, river birch, flowering dogwood
 - d. Matt is drafting signs to put around town
4. **Discussion:** AFC Annual Report
 - a. Matt's draft was approved by the Commission. He will submit it.
5. **Discussion:** Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Grants (MVP) Ice Glen
 - a. The state gives grants to fund adaptations for climate change mitigation.
 - b. Indigenous management could be approved, so we might be able to hire the Stockbridge Indians to manage it. We should talk to the tribe to find out if they are interested and able.
 - c. Forester for Ice Glen: Mike Mauri has been recommended. We'll invite him to a meeting, after which we will decide whether to propose to the Select Board that we hire him.
6. **Discussion:** Farm Crew Housing
 - a. People from different parts of the country want to come here to do seasonal farm work. They ask if we have housing. A few farms do, but not enough to help everyone who could come. Our farms can't attract seasonal workers without housing. Can we find a way to incentivize people who have rooms to rent to make them available at a rate that farm workers could afford?
 - b. There is a person at the federal Natural Resource Conservation Service in Pittsfield who may be able to help. Matt will inquire.
 - c. We'll think about this issue. We may be too late for this year, but maybe by next year we'll have a solution.
7. **Adjournment** - Confirm next meeting date and time
 - a. Next meeting is Monday, April 4, at 6:30.
 - b. At 7:00 pm Matt made a motion to adjourn. Passed unanimously.