

# Woodstock Agricultural Commission

Regular Meeting, Woodstock Town Hall, 1 pm, Monday, January 22, 2024

**Members Present:** Emilie Hebert, Rebecca Hyde, Paul Miller, Stewart Morse, Richard Norman

**Absent:** Linda Auger, Jon Hermonot, Karen Swanberg

**Public present:** Randy Blackmer, Grace Jacobson

1. **Call to order** Meeting called to order at 1:00 pm
2. **Seat alternates** Paul Miller seated
3. **Review of minutes** December 2023 minutes were approved
4. **Public participation** Randy Blackmer attended representing the Thompson Agricultural Commission. In recent years, they have organized something similar to a farm tour with a passport, created brochures showing farm businesses in town, and received a grant to create a food forest/permaculture park to be located at 65 Main St. Their next meeting will be Wed Jan 31, 7 pm at the Thompson Town Hall.
5. **Old business**
  - a. **WOSLAPC report** No report
  - b. **P&Z report** Woodstock Sustainable Farms' application was approved, with conditions
  - c. **Farming Friends Letter** No further discussion
  - d. **Farm Store Definition** No further discussion
  - e. **American Farmland Trust Grant** Work continues on an accurate list of "open space" parcels ie those where development is limited due to sale of development rights, sale to a land trust, conservation easements, or town ownership. Will hire another person to engage with the managers of said parcels around soil health management.
  - f. **Private land access** Will look into creating a sign to be offered to those who need it
  - g. **Farm tax exemption** The CT Farm Bureau lobbyists are working on this. The amounts exempt from property taxes for farm buildings and equipment have not been adjusted since 1985.
  - h. **Woodstock Agricultural Taste Trail** Still under consideration. Possibly could be extended to include surrounding towns.
  - i. **Budget** FY 25 budget has been submitted, requesting \$500
  - j. **Other** None

## **6. New business**

### **a. State of CT Agriculture Report**

Ag Day will be March 20th.

The Young Farmer of CT award is accepting applicants.

### **b. Other**

The Woodstock Ag Society, which runs the Woodstock Fair, had their annual meeting. They're working up a job description to cover the duties of the previous general manager. Also need a secretary. Some new Board members are in. Biggest change is the Main Stage is going down toward where the go karts were.

## **7. Announcements**

Feb 7, there will be a showing of Earth 2024, by Ken Wolslegel, a review of the global environmental challenges presented by humanity's activities, through graphics, music and narration. 7 pm in the Lecture Hall at the Loos Center, Woodstock Academy - South Campus

## **8. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 2:23.

Rebecca Hyde, Secretary

(These minutes are subject to approval at the next meeting of the full Commission.)