

Woodstock Agricultural Commission

Regular Meeting, Town Hall, Room A, 1 pm, Monday, September 17, 2018

Members Present: Stewart Morse, Richard Norman, Paul Miller, Lynn Weaver, Linda Auger. Rebecca Hyde at 1:15.

Public Present: Grace Jacobsen

Call to order: Meeting called to order at 1 pm.

Seat alternates Richard Norman moved to seat Linda Auger and Paul Miller as a full members, Lynn Weaver seconded, **All in favor.**

Review of August minutes: Richard Norman motioned to approve the March minutes as presented, Lynn Weaver seconded, **all in favor.**

Public participation

Grace Jacobsen, reporting from the Conservation Commission, stated that the situation with the State salt shed has not been resolved, six homes are affected. 2 dogs have died, there are problems with pipes and appliances.

Old business

- a. **WOLSLAFP report.** The process for the Spaulding property is complete, 82 acres.
- b. **P&Z subcommittee report.** The new lighting regs are moving toward approval. In October new subdivision regs will go to Public Meeting.
- c. **Other.** Richard Norman reported on the Killingly VoAg enrollment. Woodstock has 10 students enrolled there now. 121 students will be visiting on the 25th, that trip may also include Ellis Tech. Mr Toth is going to visit too. The cost to send is \$6,823, much less than the Academy. Prospective students are screened on grades and discipline and interviewed. Most are in FFA (Future Farmers of America). Many of the regional towns' Agricultural Commissions are represented on the school's consulting commission.

6. New business

- a. **2018 Program Agro-tourism in the 21st Century** Program is in good shape. Lynn and Joan will be on the radio on the 20th. Richard Norman mentioned that the USDA has specialists in Agrotourism, who are available for speaking engagements. Lynn Weaver stated that Chris Laughton will be there, he is in charge of knowledge exchange at Farm Credit East, and will offer statistics and background. Chris works out of the Enfield office and prepares quarterly updates on commodities, among other things.

b. Celebrating Ag 2018. We'll have a banner and easel, as well as flyers for the program. Paul will also pass out flyers at the tractor ride table.

c. Review of Selectmen August 2018 presentation. We will be going through this thoroughly in our next meeting.

c. Woodstock Land Map Grid Review. Map 7282, which runs along the Thompson line from Bull Hill Rd down either side of Senexet, to the East side of Roseland Park Rd, and south to Roseland Park. This includes the section of Muddy Brook running into Roseland Lake, and the northern half of Roseland Lake. The Little River rises in Thompson and enters Woodstock on this map, on a 26.1 acre parcel owned by Waldron Sherman.

Contours: Roseland Lake is 290 ft above sea level, then to the East there's a N/S ridge that rises to 500 ft or so, some higher points. Everything between Roseland Park Rd and Senexet is fairly low lying, much of it "alluvial and floodplain soil" wetlands, some of it "poorly drained and very poorly drained" wetlands. Between the ridge and Roseland Park Rd, a lot of the soils are Prime Farmland or Statewide Important Farmland, except where it's swamp or brook.

Farms: Vinals'. Stewart points out the whole area around the Vinals' was previously farms.

Large parcels: Roseland Park, 60 acres. Various Eddy's own along Senexet. The Bentley family (Colts Plastics) owns 7 parcels, about 100 acres. The Wyndham Land Trust owns about 50 acres. There are about 80 lots total, 22 over 10 acres. Of 585 acres, 355 are taxed as Open Space or Farmland. Only Vinals' and Eva Spaldings' are taxed as Farm.

7. Announcements / Other

The unaffiliated candidate for governor, Oz Griebel, came by Millers' farm, along with Pat Boyd. Seemed attentive and knowledgeable. On the 20th at 11 the State Senate candidate Mr. Champagne will visit. On the 11th of Oct, Lamont and Bysiewicz will be visiting another large farm in the area. Stefanowski promised to send his wife. These are good educational opportunities. Richard Norman noted that while CT is officially promoting Agritourism, the Dept of Consumer Protection is adding more requirements for inspections and records. This tips the balance toward the large producers, often those out of state.

8. Adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 2:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Hyde, Secretary

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