

Auburn Natural Products and Agriculture Working Group

6 25 24 Approved 8 29 24

Location: Bell Farm

Recorder: Dave Griswold

Staff attending: None

Attending: Kathy Shaw, David Bell, Ed Michaud, Dave Griswold, Chris Carson

Excused: Joe Gray, Pam Rousseau

Absent: Katie Boss, Chelsea Eaton, Michelle Mallegrano

Guests: Chris Piercy, BettyAnne Sheats, Ned Claxton

Call to Order: 6:15 pm

Public Participation: None

1. **Minutes:** No minutes brought forward for approval
2. **Grant update:** Chris Piercy provided an update on Farm to School grant application (through ARPA). The Grant has been accepted and awarded. Auburn, Lewiston and Lisbon will share equipment and staff to process local food at AMS. Kathy offered to help set up a meeting with local farmers in September to develop local sourcing of fresh food products. Initial targets are potatoes, root vegetables, squash, and apples.
3. **SNRB Solid Waste Task Force update:** Dave shared that the Task Force will hold a public hearing on 6 27 at Auburn Hall to present draft recommendations and receive public input. Task force is looking at solid waste, recycling and food waste. Dave noted that food waste at schools is a topic of discussion.
4. **Criteria/Tool to vet connection to the land in the Ag zone:** There was discussion of using a checklist with points assigned to various items. Some or all might apply to a specific application. Plan is to continue discussion with appropriate staff at a future meeting. Potential items for considered for points include:
 - i. Filed conservation plan with SWCD, farm plan, forest management plan.
 - ii. Filed Schedule F with IRS and document such with the City

- iii. Documentation of percentage of household income from farming
- iv. Sales receipts from farm produce
- v. Farm infrastructure documentation
- vi. Extra points for selling product within the county
- vii. Location of house relative to productive field acreage
- viii. Member(s) of household with degree/certificate in farming, ag economics or related field
- ix. Filed a business plan to raise specific products
- x. CSA participation
- xi. Participation in State land use program
- xii. Worker housing on site
- xiii. Conservation easement.

5.

- 6. **Discussion of Ag Land identification:** Discussion of using Joe's work and GIS to document Ag land in Auburn.
- 7. **State Meat Inspection:** Kathy raised the issue of confusion about what is required to process meat for sale in different venues and circumstances. She will ask about getting a State representative to come and review regulations with us.

New Business: None

Next meetings: July TBA

Pending agenda items: TBA

Adjourned: 7:30PM

