

Auburn Natural Products and Agriculture Working Group

3 28 24 Minutes, Approved 4 25 24

Location: Senior Center, Pettengill Park

Recorder: Dave Griswold

Staff attending: None

Attending: Dave Griswold, Kathy Shaw, Chris Carson, Joe Gray

Excused: Chelsea Eaton, Michelle Malagnoro, David Bell, Camille Parrish, Pam Rousseau

Absent: Katie Boss, Ed Michaud

Guests: Chris Piercey

Call to Order: 6:15 pm

Public Participation: None

1. **Minutes:** Minutes for 2 29 24 were approved.
2. **Full Plates Full Potential Grants:** Chris Piercey of the Auburn School Dept reported that he is developing a federal grant proposal to add food processing space at AMS. This would provide freezer space, a blast chiller and vegetable chopper, allowing Auburn to purchase more local produce for school menus. Initial plans would target potatoes, apples, strawberries, corn, carrots etc. State provides \$1 for each \$3 of local food purchased, with a maximum of \$5000 per year. Auburn, Lewiston, and Lisbon are cooperating on the grant application. The application is due May 1. The Group expressed support and offered to host a meeting with local farmers.
3. **Food Forest:** Kathy reported a conversation with Misty Edgecomb. The path forward is uncertain at this point. Dave said it is likely too late to apply for a Project Canopy Grant this year, but funds should be available again next year.
4. **Farmers Market:** There is the possibility of a CDBG grant to support a farmers market.
5. **Land Use Forum:** Kathy shared that a second Land Use Forum is planned for April 13 at the Senior Center from 9:00-3:00. Participants will include Maine Farmland Trust, City Assessor Karen Scammon, and the Forest Carbon Project.
6. We would like to sponsor an open farm event this fall, probably a self-guided tour of participating farms.
7. **ARPA Funds:** City has an additional \$70k in ARPA funds that must be allocated by Dec. 1.

8. Kathy and Joe plan to hold a community pig roast/pot-luck event on July 27. Details to follow.

New Business: None

Next meetings: April 25, 6:00

Pending agenda items: TBA

Adjourned: 7:45 PM