

## **Auburn Natural Products and Agriculture Working Group**

8 29 24 Approved

**Location:** Bell Farms, Riverside Drive, Auburn

**Recorder:** Dave Griswold

**Staff attending:** None

**Attending:** Kathy Shaw, David Bell, Dave Griswold, Joe Gray

**Excused:** Pam Rousseau, Chris Carson

**Absent:** Katie Boss, Chelsea Eaton, Michelle Mallegrano

**Guests:** Steve Beale

**Call to Order:** 6:39 pm

**Public Participation:** None

1. **Minutes:** Minutes for 3 28, 5 30 and 6 25 were approved. Note: the April meeting was suspended for lack of a quorum.
2. **Grant update:** Chris Piercy has communicated that the Farm to School grant application (through ARPA) to partners Auburn, Lewiston and Lisbon is on track.
3. **Criteria/Tool to vet connection to the land in the Ag zone:** There was a continuation of discussion about using a checklist. Criteria must be objective and the process repeatable. The Mayor is likely to form a task force shortly to develop criteria for staff to use. Potential groups to participate include SNRB working groups and Parks and Rec. More information to come.
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4. **October Farm Tour:** Plans for an “Auburn open farm” day were discussed. It was agreed to set the date as Saturday, Oct 19. The plan is to involve 6-8 operations. Kathy will approach staff for support and publicity.
5. **Local Food Action Plan:** Sherry Blumenthal is the new coordinator. The plan includes consideration of Voluntary Farm Support Program, a comprehensive food strategy, and a separate tax rate for AG infrastructure.

6. **AMS Farming Club:** Pam is starting a farming Club at AMS. Middle schoolers will raise vegetables and learn about processing and canning.

**New Business:** None

**Next meetings:** Sept 26, location TBA

**Adjourned:** 7:40PM