

Minutes: Piscataquis County Extension Association Executive Committee Meeting on 5/14/2018

Present: Members: Beth McEvoy, Dottie Hadler, Karen Murphy, Richard Neal, Carole Boothroyd

Staff: Donna Coffin, Barb Baker Guest speaker: Rod Willey, Northeast Wilderness Trust

- President Beth McEvoy called the meeting to order at 3 pm. Karen Murphy was appointed as timekeeper.
- Rod Willey presented the big picture for conservation land in southern Piscataquis County. He handed out maps of the lands of the Northeast Wilderness Trust, the Alder Stream Preserve and other conservation easements that form a wide band of conserved lands in southern Piscataquis County. Rod described some of the plans for Charles Fitzgerald's acreage in Atkinson: to preserve the watershed, harvest timber responsibly for the wooden products business, Into the Woods, located in Bar Harbor and Dover-Foxcroft and to establish 25-30 miles of trails and natural spaces for educational events. For more information, Rod can be reached at alderstream1971@gmail.com
- Minutes of the April meeting were approved, with one correction to the date of the May meeting.
- The Piscataquis Cooperative Extension Budget Report was approved by unanimous vote.

Program Updates

- **Highlights of 4-H Program from Sheila Norman and Barb Baker**

Rebecca will represent Piscataquis County at the Eastern States Exposition on the Communication Science Team. Ingrid is an alternate and Sheila will chaperone.

Milo 4-H After School took their annual trip to UMaine on April 18 and had a wonderful time.

There's a new 4-H club, the **Mighty Monarchs**, led by Adrienne Clark; it meets in Dover-Foxcroft. The Tractor Supply Co. 4-H **Paper Clover Campaign** raised \$1000 more than last year.

4-H is currently planning for the **Piscataquis County Fair**

4-H@UMaine, designed to introduce students to college life, is on May 18 and 19. Several Piscataquis County youth will participate as teen leaders. Ruth H. is a chaperone and Sheila is on staff.

The Rural Youth Futures Survey is a research project by UMaine professor Mindy Crandall which has been taken in schools. It seeks to learn about youth aspirations in rural, traditionally forest-industry based counties. The next step is listening sessions in Dover-Foxcroft on May 21, in Greenville on May 22 and in Jackman on May 23. Results will be shared to help guide programs in the future.

- **Home Horticulture Report from Trisha Smith**

Piscataquis Passport registration/enrollment has been simplified through the efforts of Trisha, Barb and Fran Sulinski, Asst. Director of Extension. Trisha and Gretchen H. are attending school concerts, with a goal of signing up 50 kids. The program runs June 18-August 17.

Veggie Vouchers will be available at the Dover Cove Farmers' Market for Passport kids again this year. The cost of the program for 50 kids is \$1500. Piscataquis Healthy Food for All has committed \$200. The Piscataquis Executive Committee voted unanimously to donate \$500. Vouchers are usable until the end of the outdoor market season.

Coast of Maine Compost donated 10 bags of compost for school gardens. Many thanks to Sheila for our share.

All 2nd Grade teachers in Dover-Foxcroft will work with the garden this year and an all-grade garden activity occurred in May with digging, planting and starting indoor seedlings. Trisha purchased a second shop light for the seedling stand.

One Tomato seedlings will be distributed through WIC in Dover-Foxcroft on June 13 and in Milo on June 6, both from 9:30-3 pm.

- **Piscataquis Activities from Donna Coffin**

Donna reports 18 **one-to-one contacts** in April-May, including questions on: irrigation, climate change, medicinal hemp, plum diseases, herbicide use, beef minerals, pasture re-seeding.

Upcoming Programs/Meetings include One Tomato distribution at the Black Fly Festival on June 2, and through WIC in Dover-Foxcroft and Milo, June 13 and 6 from 9:30- 3 pm.

Climate Change Presentation by the UMaine Climate Change Institute is postponed.

Staff Training: on Kaltura, the new University video/podcast platform and on the new website template which is designed to work better with mobile devices.

Past Programs/Meetings: Keeping Small Ruminants Healthy with Dr. Katerina Ruksznis and Dr. Karen Murphy attracted 22 participants at the Foxcroft Vet Clinic Barn. Those attending overwhelmingly rated the hands-on part of the program as best and indicated interest in more goat programs, how to run fecal and blood tests, a site in Penobscot County and a program in Lincoln County.

- **Unfinished Business** included discussion of One Tomato distribution: if tomatoes are not all given out, Donna will ask the County Manager for permission to set up outside the Coop Extension during the Whoopie Pie Festival, June 23. Donna and Beth discussed the Backyard Poultry Program, using goats as brush cleaners and the grants given by the Sustainable Agriculture Research Education program to demo sites on local farms. Barb reported that 4-H staff are reviewing the National 4-H Strategic Plan.

- **New Business** involved choosing eight photos from Coop Extension events which Richard has offered to frame for the office. Richard also offered to set up the watering system for the SEDO Student Garden. The Committee would like to invite a Libra representative to a future meeting and will be reaching out to recruit new members for the Executive Committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 5 pm.

Next meeting: June 11, 2018 at 3 pm

Submitted by Carole Boothroyd, Secretary on 6/4/2018