

# Age-Friendly Sullivan Livable Communities, Wednesday, August 3, 2022, 9a-10a, Sullivan Town Office MINUTES

	Topic	Discussion	Action
8:30am	Refreshments / Social	Meeting will begin at 9am; Nadine, Betty, Diana, Raina, Michael, Judie, Bob, Cyndi, Jeanne, Candy	Regrets: Trudy, Don, Andy,
9am	<p>Guest Speaker:</p> <p>Bob Phillips, former President of Jasper Wyman &amp; Son, Blueberries Speaking about the changes to the blueberry industry in the past 40 years</p>	<p>Weed Control: Valpar kills everything except blueberry bushes - easier to harvest. Initially used too much, getting into the ground water, recommended usage required (under control) Machine harvesting - lack of labor; now tractor mount harvest 80%; owners invested in leveling land and rock removal, Burning gave way to flail mowing, very few burned. (Flame throwers) Insect Control (fruit flies): Traps set in field, developed thresholds, only those areas in need are sprayed (eliminated 80% spraying) Irrigation: makes bigger berries, easily growth of several million pounds due to rainfall or irrigation. Sourcing water: Farm ponds (highly regulated), dug/drilled wells with pumps; big guns More bees for pollination during bloom (4 hives/acre) - 10K acres in barren</p> <p>Bob's background as a food chemist - Fresh ideas - wild blueberry marketing, changes in product from only frozen to dried, sorbet pure, canned, all major companies have research center, high in antioxidants (USDA) #1, healthy food - propriety info - Wyman's developed new products - Japanese interested in wild blues; trade mission with Gov. King, Sen Collins &amp; Sen Cohen; now promotional funds for exporting options; hiring local agents to represent wild blues; Selling price increased to demand \$0.25 to \$1+ / smart growers invested in land to make more fruit, more money.</p>	

		<p>Factory: same as 100 years; 6 inspection tables 24/day - 1/2 of foreign material removed. Not cleaning berries good enough. Electronic sorting (B&amp;M) baked ; sending product to companies for testing, cleanest berries in industry, as many berries in 30# boxes as possible, Bought 1st auto packing line; (labor shortage) 1 year payoff purchasing equipment. Blueberry concentrate; dried cranberries - developed dried blueberries; puree for ice cream manufacturers (Hagan Daz sorbet); Wyman's presence in retail market - 50 states;</p> <p>80% family owned companies fail in 3rd generation  Ownership changes - AgVest / Franklin bought by Nova Scotia growers; (exchange rate) - Sold to / purchased Allen's back; Maine Wild (Bob Foster) sold to Canadian Co (bought cherry field foods) largest</p>	
	Funding & Finance:	\$4700 Town of Sullivan approved (\$500 admin/\$4200 programs)	
	Community Organization Updates:	<p>Frenchman Bay Library - Healthy Acadia program on 9/6 at 2pm - manufacturing &amp; addictive potential, overdose info; table at Sullivan Daze "Everything Blueberry"; yard sale 8/27 Rec Center</p> <p>Sorrento-Sullivan Historical Society 8/10 Sorrento Community Building - Raina presents "Maggies Diary" experiences in Sullivan - 7pm followed by reception for Raina</p> <p>Sullivan-Sorrento Recreation Center - air conditioning working!</p>	
	Legislation / Civic Engagement	AFS to partner with Town to produce special edition Town Crier with info on property tax relief programs available	See website FMI
	Current Discussion & Project Updates:	<p>Birthday Card Committee - additional card writers?</p> <p>Movie in the Park</p> <p>8/6 Sullivan DAZE - Outreach table with goats</p> <p>Community Garden</p> <p>Window Dressers program</p>	
	Announcements/Updates	FLU clinic to be scheduled late September / early October	
	Next meeting (in-person):	September 7, 2022: Guest TBD (ideas FD update, Monkey Pox, Healthy Acadia, Tax Questions	

