

Minutes

Lachat town Farm Commission Meeting

4/7/15

Present: Ellen McCormick, Ed Parker, Mike Smith, Carol Baldwin, Jeff Wollman, Judy Saffan, Nick Bell, Lily Edelman and Jamie Kapel

Absent: Diane Renaud, Michelle Fracasso and Amy Kalafa

Meeting was called to order at 7:49 pm.

Minutes for March 11th were accepted as written.

Carol nominated Ellen to be the chair of the commission and she was unanimously approved.

Ed met with a builder regarding repair work for the barn and presented estimates for the various projects involved in repairing the barn. Carol gave Ed an application for a grant from the Connecticut Trust to apply for funds for the barn repairs.

Carol and Ellen prepared an application for a Weston Educational Foundation grant for educational programming.

Carol and Ellen finalized budget numbers and reviewed them with Rick who made a few suggestions to get the budget ready to be presented to the Board of Selectmen at the meeting on May 7th.

There was a discussion about what to use for the parking area and the access "roads" on the property. We talked about using gravel for the parking and entrances and pavers in other areas.

Opening day at the farm will be Sunday June 14th at 1-3 pm. We hope to have the Kiwanis tractor presented, have a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new sign, acknowledge the wish list donors, give house tours and hopefully have some local politicians present for flag day. Diane is working on lawn signs for the event. Ellen will send out an email blast and have Deirdre write an article about the event. We talked about having some kind of "wow" event or activity to draw people to the event. We will give away Lachat bags with donation envelopes. Lily will work on a craft table for kids.

Carol made a motion, seconded by Nick, to use Friends of Lachat funds to have Gail Clayton design and create a website for Lachat and to provide annual maintenance. The motion passed unanimously. The funds used will likely be reimbursed by a future grant.

Ellen will be shopping this week for equipment for the community garden with money received at the harvest dinner fundraiser.

We won't be doing any perimeter fencing this year so that we can use those areas for event parking.

Michelle has offered to donate a children's garden for the farm.

We talked about having a garlic festival in mid-July. Mike explained that it is good to plant potatoes following the garlic so we may include potato planting in the event.

Jamie told the group about the meeting with Michele Albright. We hope to have an event every month beginning in June. Lily will get involved regarding events for children.

Carol explained that Bob has two concerns. One is the office. Bob highly recommends having a secure room that can be closed off and locked. Ellen suggested having the office in the apartment. His other concern is that the hearth room is open to the back addition, which is inconsistent with the historic nature of the house and also presents problems for reconstructing a kitchen. We need to have a discussion in the near future as to what kind of kitchen we want to have in that space.

Carol reported that all of the plots in the community have been rented. There are some plans regarding composting at the garden this season.

Lily has set up Twitter and Facebook accounts. They haven't been activated yet, but she will be in charge of the posts.

Carol and Ellen suggested meeting every 2 weeks.

The next meeting will be April 21st.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:37 pm.

Minutes approved April 21, 2015