

Minutes

Lachat Town Farm Commission Meeting

7/5/16

Present: Ellen McCormick, Carol Baldwin, Nick Bell, Mike Smith, Katherine McConnaughey and Elizabeth Zeppernick

Absent: Ed Parker, Jeff Wollman and Judy Saffan

Meeting was called to order at 7:55

Minutes from 6/7 were approved.

Bees

An Eagle Scout is in the process of making a kiosk for the farm. We discussed where to put the hives and the informational kiosk. One side of kiosk can educate about bees while other alerts public of upcoming events. No site was decided upon but we decided to scout the site and come up with possibilities.

Greenhouse

The greenhouse is installed. There is still a need to raise funds for trays, soil, seeds etc. It has also been recommended that we treat or stain the cedar.

Gardens

Kat updated on the community gardens. Both new plots are rented and if more are needed then two more can be built. The senior plot has been paid for and a couple of the plots that were either relinquished or downsized need checks sent to those members.

It was discussed if there should be an active compost site for the community gardens. We may have volunteers to help install and can possibly get the materials free or at a low cost from local businesses. We discussed putting limits on the materials that can be added to the compost- if it should be organic only and whether community gardeners can bring compost from their homes. Kat will wait for John Lawless to contact her to visit the site and plan.

The possibility of getting gates was discussed but given the expense it would need to be installed by volunteers.

Kat needs the garden inquiry emails to be directed to her as it's possible they are still being routed to the previous organizer.

Children's Garden

Michelle Fracasso is planning for drip irrigation now that the greenhouse is up and trucks will no longer be going through that area of the farm.

House

Carol updated us that the 1772 Foundation's matching grant of 2k was received plus matching funds for the security system for the house.

It was discovered that the sewage line was severed, although not a result of our renovation. As this is an unexpected expense, Dave will try to fix this himself and it was suggested that the town will pay for this expense out of the Lachat farm account as it is a maintenance issue. Carol met with Dave Aitaro and he is willingly to donate all of the kitchen items with the exception of the six burner stove. Carol will reach out to the network of Lachat supporters to see if one can be donated.

The urgency of getting the front of the house completed was discussed. Dave has been tied up with overseeing other projects that require his attention. Dave needs to get the front pillar commissioned in Brooklyn.

Fundraising

Look at hosting a fundraiser this Fall at Lindsay Schine Klinger's home on Godfrey East. The space has housed 150 people in the past. There is both outdoor and indoor barn space if needed. We may need a committee to help organize as this could be one of our larger fundraisers of the year.

The topic arose of holding a party for donors and volunteers in the farm house this coming winter.

We spoke briefly about the possibility of the flea market as a fundraising event this fall.

Summer Camp

There is a concern for lack of enrollment. Possible solution proposed is marketing and increased presence on our site and towns site. Signs need to be made and put up. Ellen will contact Michelle Allbright for marketing through Youth Services.

It was suggested that having live animals as soon as possible for a draw for kids and families. This is dependent on part time employees on site. We need town approval for two part time employees which will be paid through our programs.

The Barn Planning Grant came up and Carol will check in with Ed about this upon his return.

Ellen will check in with Molly Moseley and the NCC design students who may create a pamphlet for the farm. We would prefer to see a couple of options from them.

Signage

We discussed whether or not the land should be opened to the public and decided to wait to put up a sign designating the times it is open to the public as it is still an active construction site. We need tenant before this sign is put up.

Ellen will ask about a 'state sign' to get the process moving forward as this may take a while to be approved.

Farmers Market

Proposal of holding a once monthly farmers market to give us the chance to market each event more fully and hope to have a large turn out. It was suggested that we look into New Milford's market as they have volunteers running to get the goods and sell them on behalf of the farmers. Ellen plans to take a trip to New Milford market to check it out. It continues to be a concern that farmers lack the man power to commit to weekly markets. Elizabeth Z will look into a possible design for a display and shelving that could be stored in one of the bays. It would need to be light and mobile. EZ will ask the Boy Scouts/Eagle Scouts contacts to see if they could assist in the building of the stands. EZ will check with several farmers to see how feasible the once monthly market would be.

Work on the Farm

Ellen is asking Kiwanis and neighbor resident Sterling Collins about the wood splitting initiative on the land. It was proposed that we have a commission work day.

We would like to have several new commission members and four names were proposed. Terry Cho joined the meeting tonight and she is a prospective commission member.

The musicians Jay and Ray would like to have another musical event this summer, possibly the third weekend in July.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:15.