

Lachat Meeting Minutes 10/13/16

Present- Ellen McCormick, Terry Cho, Nick Bell, Stirling Collins, Jeff Wollman and Elizabeth Zeppernick. David Allon was also present as a guest.

Absent- Carol Baldwin, Mike Smith, Ed Parker, Kat McConnaughey, Judy Saffan.

Meeting was called to order at 7:39pm.

The minutes from 9/6 were approved.

We welcomed new commission members Terry Cho and Stirling Collins.

We discussed a possible barn raising and barn grants. Ed Parker is working on a grant for the barn currently. Ellen M will look into Northford Timber Framers and other barn raising options.

We spoke about fundraising and the need for a master plan to sequence projects rather than a wish list as it is formatted currently. We need to look into the possible naming of buildings. Guest and possible Commission Member David Allen agreed to find out more about naming.

We spoke about the fundraiser dinner this Saturday, organized by Carol Baldwin. We have 35 signed up now and can serve between 100-125. Set up on Saturday starting at about 2:30 requires help from commission members. The silent auction needs additional items donated. Jeff Wollman to research possible Square Up device for silent auction. Next year the farm to table dinner will be at Lachat and in September rather than October.

Ronald Schechman who lives near the farm has asked for Lachat's support to protest the noise of the seasonal trap shooting at The Weston Field Club. A motion was made to stay removed from this issue.

Carol was absent for an update on the farm house but we are receiving bids for the instillation of interior walls. Currently these bids are coming in around 9k. We need help to move things out of the house to the garage in preparation for this step.

We require a Grounds Committee and Stirling volunteered to head this committee. Bill Lomas is the new tree warden in Weston and he will come to catalog the trees on the property. Ellen will meet him there and invite other commission members as well.

We require a Farm Committee. Terry Cho volunteered to plant the garlic and lead the class. Michelle provided Ellen with a basic drawing of the children's garden.

We require a Program Committee to review all the classes for the last two years and decide which to publicize and which to cut for the future. Camp also needs to be finalized at the beginning of 2017 to capitalize on parents who plan early for the summer. The toddler age classes have had wait lists which is a great way to introduce kids and families to the farm for future programs. Ellen will call a Program Committee meeting.

Stirling will help pick up furniture at EM's storage unit and bring it to the apartment.

Lauren Hauser is Weston's Environmental Science teacher and Ellen M. is waiting for a meeting with her and Lisa Deorio to discuss how to connect the schools to the farm. Nick Bell suggested using the pond for school-farm connection.

We discussed a need to eliminate the invasive species of plants on the property.

In discussing the Farmer's Market Elizabeth Z suggested we need a design for a farm stand which can be folded/collapsed and stored in the garage to make it easier for farmers to get to the farm with less equipment. Ellen M will ask Dave for his ideas.

We discussed the need for staffing at the farm. Ellen M to meet with Tom Landry to speak about their salaries. Nick B asked if the stipend will be tax free. The couple in mind for the position would barter for housing and utilities with programming and improvements at the farm.

The greenhouse is up and it's possible the community gardeners can do seedlings this winter. We can offer seedling trays and soil as a part of the grant received. Terry Cho will work as head of the Green House Committee. Ellen will speak with Michelle Fracasso about supplies needed. There will likely not be any electricity in greenhouse until spring. This winter we can use a small heater with indoor/outdoor cord from the main house.

Next meeting will be held November 1, 2016.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:03.