

Lachat Town Farm Commission  
MINUTES for Special Meeting  
Weston Library Conference Room  
March 11, 2015

Attending: Ellen McCormick, Chair; Diane Renaud, Nick Bell, Ed Parker, Mike Smith, Michelle Fracasso, Advisory Committee; Alice Christopher, Event and Design Committee; Lily Edelman and Max Burns, guests

Absent: Jamie Kapel ( who was knocking on the window at the library because it was locked, but we never heard her), Judy Saffan, Jeff Wollman, Carol Baldwin

Meeting was called to order at 7:42pm

Minutes for February 3rd and February 17th were accepted as written.

Ellen told the committee that the Lachat Town Farm Commission was awarded a \$17,000. grant for a CT Ag Viability Grant that was applied for in November 2014. We also discussed that the fulfillment of the former Ag grant will be due at the end of April and that Jaime Smith will be coming to the farm to see it and to answer questions and to give any advice we may be seeking.

Ellen introduced Lily Edelman and Max Burns who are applicants for the position of manager/caretaker/program director of the farm. They gave us a rundown of their backgrounds and ideas for the farm.

There was a discussion about narrowing down the manager's job description. We also discussed the apartment/garage building needs for the future. A motion was made by Ed Parker that we give the tenant notice since we need the building for farm equipment and an inside facility for an office and classes. The motion was seconded by Diane Renaud and carried unanimously.

The farming portion of the farm was discussed as was the programming.

We talked about the farm being a place where we educate and where we promote local farming rather than competing with other farms in the area. There has never been an intention to compete with any other farm in the area.

Diane Renaud and Alice Christopher discussed the new colors for the house once the house is finished. The house will be mostly shingled with red cedar but the front of the house will be clapboarding that will be paint stained a gold color. The doors will be the color of the back door which is green. The final colors will be chosen when we can put the colors up on the walls and choose the one we like the best.

After some discussion, Ed Parker made a motion that of the two color choices given we should choose the gold color. The motion was seconded by Mike and it was unanimously passed by the committee.

Mike and Ed talked about the barn inspection. The newest part of the barn is in good shape but the older part will need a fair amount of work. Ed is going to propose some ideas for renovation and we will provide an outline for the use of the barn. Putting in a composting toilet was discussed. We also discussed whether to raise the loft to make the dairy section underneath useable. We will have to take out the cement troughs to make it work. Well before any renovations we will also need new outlets in order to have enough electric for parties, events, etc.

We discussed the purchase of the new equipment that is being donated from the Wish List from the Harvest Dinner. We will be purchasing a professional grade trimmer, lawn mower and wheelbarrow. We will need to open an account at Brandman's because they carry professional grade merchandise.

The next meeting will be April 7th.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Mike Smith, Nick Bell seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 9:50pm

Approved April 7, 2015