

Minutes

Lachat town Farm Commission Meeting

5/5/15

Present: Ellen McCormick, Nick Bell, Diane Renaud, Carol Baldwin and Judy Saffan. Michelle Fracasso, Sue Parkison and Lily Edelman were present as guests.

Absent: Jeff Wollman, Ed Parker and Jamie Kapel.

Meeting was called to order at 7:41 pm.

We discussed who will be marching in the Memorial Day parade - Diane and her husband, Lily, Ellen, and probably Judy. We discussed the content for flyers that we will distribute during the parade. Ellen will have them made at Staples soon. Those marching should dress in "farm" attire. We decided to carry a smaller banner for opening day and then hang it by the onion barn.

Michelle has two goats that she can give Lachat if someone can take care of them. Diane offered to do so as she will be at the farm daily with the interns.

We agreed that we should have a petting zoo come to opening day. We think it would be a good idea to have pony rides as well, possibly charging to offset the cost. Sue offered to help Peter with publicity for opening day. Nick suggested having a local artist hang artwork in the house that day. Ellen has sent invitations to the politicians. Michelle suggested we ask people from GVI to attend. Diane has the ribbon for the ceremony, and the sign for the tractor is all set. We are waiting to hear if Whole foods and/or Starbucks can provide food.

We talked about having a flea market day where sellers pay a fee to set up a table/booth. Carol suggested also having a table of items donated by people with those proceeds going to Lachat. We agreed to find a date early in the fall - tentatively 9/12 with a rain date on 9/13

Ellen suggested having a music performance at Lachat - jazz, battle of the bands, etc. Possibly 5-8 on a Sunday in August. Sue will work on this idea, and Ellen will talk to the Weston Arts commission. Carol will talk to someone about doing a drum circle event. She is also communicating with an artist regarding displaying outdoor sculptures.

Carol shared some ideas for programming based on activities being offered at garden of ideas in Ridgefield.

Carol brought up the subject of cleaning up and eventually fixing the front porch. Everyone was in favor, and Carol will discuss the matter with Bob Hatch.

We then discussed the Board of Selectmen meeting on Thursday where we will present our budget. This discussion turned into a larger discussion over the infrastructure of the farm and whether we wanted to stick with the plan of having a large production garden or use this area for parking. The consensus was that education and bringing community together is more important than farming on the property. If we want to have the programming we have been planning, we need to use this area for parking and have the necessary facilities. We decided to not to present the budget on Thursday until we determine what our precise plan for the property will be.

As a commission, we agreed that we should make our own rules regarding dogs at Lachat. Diane made a motion and Carol seconded. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 pm