

Lachat Town Farm Commission

MINUTES

February 17, 2015

Attending: Ellen McCormick (Chair), Carol Baldwin, Nick Bell, Jamie Kapel, Diane Renaud,
Mike Smith Absent: Judy Safan, Jeff Wollman, Ed Parker

Meeting called to order at 7:45 pm.

- A. **Farmhouse Update:** Discussed looking into a Barn Grant from the CT Trust. Mike suggested having Steve Wilson, a barn expert, come look at the barn. Mike will find a time for Steve and Ed and Mike to meet at the Barn.
- B. **Community Garden:** Diane will email the Community Gardeners on March 1st a sign up sheet and request it returned by April 1st. Volunteer work weeks, as required of the Community Gardeners, will be held the first 2 weeks of April. Checks for the garden plots (1 for plot and 1 for clean up deposit) will be made out to Friends of Lachat. Friends will then give total check amount to Town but will hold on to deposits so Town doesn't have to hassle with returning them.
- C. **Budget:** Jeff was away. When he returns, the budget will be completed so it can be presented to BOS. Presented with the budget will be a list of proposed activities. Ellen has made a draft list and asked the Commission to look at it and add their ideas. Jamie will contact Michelle Albright again to see how we can arrange programs through Weston Youth Services.
The grant from GVI was discussed and whether GVI would match monies collected via fundraising efforts: Maggie's Table (\$1,600); the Farm to Table Wish List (\$1050); and Michelle's gift of a Children's Garden (\$5000). Ellen will ask Gayle about this.
- D. **Grounds:** The Commission discussed the need for a tracking pad at the entrance to the Community Garden driveway. Judy Saffan is going to contact Gault about the tracking pad. Michelle Fracasso is getting an estimate for creating a parking area. Michelle Fracasso and Jonathan Spitzer plan to donate money for a Children's Garden to be built this summer. There was some discussion as to the best location.
Tree removal was discussed and other than stumping the pine in the circle, the other tree work will be postponed in order to prioritize our funds.
The Town's Beautification Committee will be asked to attend an upcoming meeting to get their input and discuss possible plantings including a pick-your-own flower garden and possible fruit bushes or other flowering plants and shrubs.
- E. **Mission Statement:** Carol distributed to members the best copy of the mission statement for the Lachat Town Farm Commission that she could get from Town Hall.
- F. **Production Garden:** Ellen asked Mike to put together a plan for the production garden as to what to plant and how to plant it. There was some discussion about the garlic plot and having a garlic/scape event in early June. Planting potato patches around the exterior perimeter of the community garden was also discussed as a fun, easy youth-oriented planting/harvesting activity.
- G. **New Business:** Suggested events were a composting class and a baby animal day. Diane will follow up about high school interns for the spring.
Mike suggested gathering leftovers from local restaurants that we could compost at Lachat and the compost could possibly be sold.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is March 3 at 7:30pm in the Town Hall Meeting Room.
(Minutes submitted by Carol Baldwin)