

Lachat Town Farm Commission – Minutes August 5, 2014

Present: Jamie Kapel, Michelle Fracasso, Carol Baldwin, Diane Renaud, Ellen McCormick, Mike. , Amy Kafala, Judy Saffan, Ed Parker, Nick Bell and Jeff Wollman

Meeting was called to order at 7:39 pm.

Carol made a motion to accept the minutes from 7/17 subject to typos being corrected. Diane seconded

Carol gave an update on the farmhouse, specifically the fireplace/chimney repairs. She made a motion to approve renovations to an additional fireplace in the west parlor. Ed seconded and the motion carried.

Air conditioning and heating are the next items to be worked on. We discussed the existence of electricity meters for the house.

Carol explained that the person doing the back fill can replace the stones in the stone walk; we don't yet have an estimate for this.

Other additional items not part of the original bid are the hatchway and rear wall which related to the handicap accessibility of the house.

The P and Z approvals we need will depend on the use of the house and the parking this would require. We are hoping to get on the agenda for 8/18.

Michelle discussed the harvest dinner on 9/13. She will be taking care of the most of the details passed around a sign-up sheet for the parts she needs assistance. The invite will go out in the next day or two.

Diane discussed sign and banner designs. The town is anxious for a sign on the property. Diane will get estimates for signage on the corner of RT 53 and Godfrey and work on a banner for the house.

Mike shared information on the benefits of drip irrigation that he learned from a recent seminar. Ellen will try to get someone to come to the farm to teach people about it.

Ellen would like to set up a meeting with Michelle Albright and interested commission members to discuss programming for school-age kids.

Carol shared with the commission that the town does not want a Lachat farmer to be a town employee because of all the expenses involved. We discussed alternatives, such as having a Weston school teacher, in terms of compensation . Judy sent out to the commission members the research on compensation alternatives used by other farms in the area.

Diane and Jamie volunteered to take on school programming.

Nick gave a presentation on the existing well on the farm and its viability for future use on the farm. Nick to ask the plumber who is familiar with the property to come to the next meeting and share his knowledge of the well and the irrigation needs of the property.

After a motion by Carol the meeting was adjourned at 9:53.