

Approved Minutes - Lachat Town Farm Commission

January 13, 2026

Held at Lachat Town Farm

Attending: Katherine McConnaughey (Chair), Carol Baldwin, Nick Bell (by phone), Ellen McCormick, Bruce Plotkin, Pat Weist, Junior Advisory Member, Maya Stoltz (Guests: Ava Kennedy, Weston High School, Jen Siegel, Exec. Director, Anita Dinwoodie, Friends of Lachat Board member, Alissa Stoltz)

Meeting commenced at 7:34 pm.

Minutes: Motion made by Bruce, 2nd by Nick, to approve the minutes from our Dec. 2, 2025 meeting.

Around the Farm Spotlight: (Lauren Elliot was not able to join the meeting.) Weston High School student, Ava Kennedy, gave an impressive report about her study of bats at Lachat. She did two 2-week recording sessions – in April and in November - that revealed no Long Ear Bats but an active colony of Big Brown Bats and some Tri-Color Bats. We will plan to put info on her study on our website or newsletter.

Anita gave a report on upcoming events at the farm and focused on our MLK Day of Service on Monday, January 19; packed snacked bags will be donated to the non-profit, Filling in the Gaps, that focuses on food shortages for children and serves over 10,000 children in our greater community. Both Weston Kiwanis and the Hurlbutt PTO are sponsoring the event.

Jen Siegel, who helps with the finances at the farm, reviewed 2025 and offered a look ahead to 2026.

Chairwoman's Report: Kat stated that her position as Chair had to be voted again from 2026. Carol made a motion, 2nd by Bruce to elect Kat as Chair of the Commission for the upcoming year; the motion passed unanimously and members of the Commission applauded her leadership in the previous year.

Kat then led a discussion as to planning initiative for the farm: a one-year horizon; 5-year horizon; and “Strengths and Opportunities.” Commission members, as well as guests, made suggestions, mentioned concerns, and offered some “blue sky” visions. Kat hopes to speak more about these ideas at our next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30pm.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 3, 2026 at 7:30pm at Lachat Town Farm.

Minutes humbly submitted by Carol Baldwin.