

Spring Hill Farm Advisory Committee (SHFAC)
September 18, 2023 – 7:00 p.m.
Approved Minutes

Members present:

Beth Sautter, Chair
Kristina Snyder
Chuck Myette
Kim Rairdon
Joe Biedrzycki
Ann Podlipny
Stephen O. Landau, Board of Selectmen Liaison

Members absent:

Cindy LeBlanc
Mark Desiderio
Colin Costine, Alternate
Ted Broadwater, Alternate

Guests present:

Chester PACT

I. Call to Order

Chair Sautter called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. Old Business

A. Attendance

B. Approval of Minutes – August 21, 2023

Regarding the discussion from the August 21, 2023, meeting, Chair Sautter said she was notified by Finance Director Joanne Smith that the expenditure made in June that arrived after the end of June could not be included in the previous fiscal year expenses. Selectman Landau clarified that once the auditors have come in, expenses cannot be included in the prior fiscal year and Chair Sautter verified that was the information she received. It was not a large expense, so will not negatively impact this year's budget.

Mr. Biedrzycki noted he submitted expenses at the end of August for June and July access to the GrantWatch website. These will be included in this year's budget. Selectman Landau pointed out the GrantWatch subscription has been taken over by the Town, so it will no longer be included in the Spring Hill Farm budget.

Ms. Rairdon moved to accept the minutes of the August 21, 2023, meeting as presented. Ms. Snyder seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

44 **C. Treasurer's Report**

Mr. Desiderio was not present, so there was no Treasurer's Report.

46 **D. Cattlemen Update**

48 The cattlemen were not present to provide an update.

50 **E. Geary Farms Update**

52 Nick and Christy Ortins were not present to provide an update.

F. SHF Brochure Update

54 Mr. Biedrzycki reported that plastic brochure displays and brochures have been
distributed to seven locations in town and asked for a volunteer to place the final one
56 at the Old Post Restaurant. As of September 11th, the holders still had brochures in
them. Seventy-five brochures are missing from the inventory. The Committee
58 discussed other methods of distributing the brochures and agreed to place the
information on the Town website and Facebook page. Mr. Biedrzycki will discuss
60 whether it is appropriate to send the brochure to the Town email list with Town
Administrator Debra Doda.

62 **G. Trail Map Update**

64 Ms. Rairdon said trail maps were given out at the Town Fair and are located in the
box at the Farm. She will have them available at the Fall Fest as well.

66 **H. Site Plan Status**

68 Mr. Myette said the intended uses of the farmhouse need to be submitted to Building
Inspector Myrick Bunker. The number of people using it at one time will determine
70 how many bathrooms are needed. Mr. Biedrzycki volunteered to draft this
information to be submitted to Mr. Bunker.

72 The Committee agreed to create a poster with pictures of the inside of the farmhouse
74 to be displayed at the Fall Fest.

76 **I. Grant process**

Eversource has not informed the Committee regarding the grant awards. Mr.
78 Biedrzycki updated the Committee on the grants he is pursuing: the Land
Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP), also known as the moose plate
80 grant, and the New Hampshire Community Center Investment Program (CDFA).

82 **J. Haying Update**

84 Mr. Myette reported the first cut has been completed on all fields dry enough to
work. A second cut will be done this week. There have been equipment issues and
repairs have been done. Chair Sautter noted three-quarters of the hay was sold out of

86 the field and 27 bales brought back to the barn. Some bales were lost last month due
88 to equipment failures and bad weather. The Committee estimated approximately
1,100 bales were harvested.

90 **K. Town Fair**

92 The Committee discussed the Town Fair. Attendance was light, possibly due to the
hot, humid weather. Ms. Snyder noted there were a lot of competing events, which
94 could explain the lower numbers as well. Mr. Myette said the vendors did well. New
residents visited the SHF table to learn about the Farm.

96 **L. Derry Trail Ride**

98 Chair Sautter said approximately 30 riders participated in the trail ride and the
response was positive. There was an incident with ground bees stinging two horses
and riders, and one rider was thrown. 911 was called and emergency response
100 arrived, using the ATV. The injured rider refused care and went home; the other
rider and horses were extracted from the area.

102 One positive was that the trails were numbered per the recommendation of the TRC,
104 so the riders were able to accurately report their location to 911. They also said
having important phone numbers on the map was helpful.

106 The raffle netted a total of \$309, with the horse picture earning over \$200 (tickets
108 were \$5 for the picture). They will do the same with another picture at the Fall Fest.

110 **M. Fall Fest**

112 Chair Sautter shared a report from Ms. LeBlanc about the status of preparations for
the Fall Fest. The Committee discussed what still needed to be done. They were
pleased that a large number of vendors have registered. The schedule of events will
114 be posted during the week.

116 **N. Chester Conservation Commission Update**

118 Ms. Snyder shared posters that Moosewood Ecological created of some of the
species they have found on the property during their natural resources inventory
(NRI). These will be displayed at the Conservation booth at Fall Fest. She mentioned
120 they will be doing a Town-wide NRI as well, which will be incorporated into the
Master Plan.

122 She noted in the Lane Road area, the beech trees are producing a large amount of
124 beechnuts, which are good wildlife food. The trees are being enveloped by
bittersweet, which needs to be removed to ensure they survive. Selectman Landau
126 pointed out the largest beech tree in the state is located off Candia Road.

III. New Business

A. Dogs Off Leash at SHF

Mr. Myette received an email from a resident who encountered dogs running off-leash on the trail near the High Tunnel. The owner did retrieve them, but the resident was frightened. There is an ordinance at Wason Pond that dogs must be on leash..

The Committee discussed how to address this issue. Selectman Landau pointed out the RSA states dogs must be under voice control; they do not have to be leashed. The Trust and the Committee can erect a sign without Selectboard approval. To require a leash changes the RSA, so the Committee would have to appear before the Selectboard and request an ordinance be passed. They agreed that enforcement is difficult and a penalty would need to be associated with it. Law enforcement would also need to be involved to enforce the ordinance.

Selectman Landau suggested advertising that attendees at the Fall Festival must have their dogs on a leash to see how it is received.

Ms. Snyder moved to request an ordinance that all dogs on the mapped trails at Spring Hill Farm must be on a leash. Ms. Rairdon seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed 4-0-3.

Chair Sautter will contact the Selectboard to pursue this.

B. Next meeting – Monday, October 16, 2023

IV. Adjourn

Ms. Snyder moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Rairdon seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Hanggeli, Recording Secretary