

**Spring Hill Farm
Advisory Committee
December 18, 2017
Approved Minutes**

Attendance

Present:

Corinna Reishus, Facilitator
Maryann Boulter
Selectman Cass Buckley, Spring Hill Farm Trustees Selectman Liaison
Joe Castricone
Tiffany Coroka
Colin Costine
Emily Kunelius
Kendall Kunelius
Chuck Myette
Maria Oakley
James Piper

Absent:

Selectman Vice-Chair Jack Cannon
Chris Carolan
Courtney Cashman

Guests:

Kari Lerner
Joe Krasowski

1. **Call to Order – Open Meeting**

Mrs. Reishus called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

2. **Review of November 14, 2017 Meeting Notes**

Mr. Castricone requested to change “no much” to “not much” on line 148.

Mrs. Oakley motioned to accept the minutes, as amended. Mr. Castricone seconded her motion, all in favor, motion carried.

3. **Discussion regarding walk-through of Towle Road property trails**

Mrs. Reishus reported that she and a few others (unspecified) walked the trails at the Towle Road property in order to familiarize themselves and noted there were a lot of walking trails.

Sledding. Mrs. Reishus observed there were more parking opportunities available at Towle Road for sledding purposes. Mrs. Reishus reiterated that parking for sledding on Lane Road would be an issue, as rocks may need to be moved and there is an old well that could be a safety obstruction according to Mr. Costine. Mr. Piper observed that there were no signs up to promote sledding. Mrs. Reishus stated that she would make some calls. Mrs. Oakley suggested a map for sledders, trail walkers, etc. Mr. Myette stated that they were all clearly marked except for North Chester and they weren't looking to publish a map right now but certainly could.

4. Timeline

Mrs. Reishus promoted a timeline for the purpose of organizing membership, roles and responsibilities, occupancy, setting up a management plan.

a. Membership. Mrs. Reishus urged members to attend this Thursday's Board of Selectmen's meeting to get appointed, if they were available, then would see Erin at the Town Clerk's office to have their oath administered. Mrs. Reishus would like to see members appointed from Recreation, Conservation and Agriculture and a Selectman Liaison. Mrs. Reishus addressed the best possible number of members to facilitate a quorum being present at each meeting. It was concluded that the membership would be 9 Committee members and 3 alternates. Mr. Costine and Ms. Lerner indicated they would prefer to serve as alternates. Ms. Lerner stated that she was here because she is a state rep and wants to know what she can contribute to the farm be it permissions, grant money, etc. and would like to be available to make the farm a useful asset to the town.

b. Roles & Responsibilities. Mr. Castricone suggested members group together to tackle the four issues presently before the Committee, which were farming, forestry, recreation and education; and would meet monthly to vote and report on progress. Selectman Buckley hopes that with community involvement they will find good uses for the farm to highly benefit the townsfolk. A mission statement would be developed which would promote the farm and its activities to benefit the community.

c. Occupancy. Selectman Buckley stated that the current plan is to have no tenant(s). The current occupants should be out by March 7th. Currently there is one cow. Mr. Myette stated that volunteers have been taking care of it. Mrs. Kunelius expressed concerns about livestock being unattended with no one living there just the same.

d. Management Plan. The Committee will pitch ideas to the Board of Selectman. The Board of Selectman will consider the ideas, approve them and form the plan and then move them forward to the Trust and the Advisory Board to make things happen. As far as money, the goal is not to maximize profit but to put forth activities which might generate fees which would then be put back into the farm. Selectman Buckley urged the focus to be on agriculture first rather than recreation. Ms. Coroka suggested field trips from Chester Academy and hayrides to promote education.

5. New Business

Outreach. The Committee discussed reaching out to other organizations such as Pinkerton Academy. Mrs. Lerner stated that since she works with the state she could create partnerships with UNH, FFA, 4H and other organizations.

Organic Certification. Concerns were expressed about the location of parking and losing their organic certification.

Homework. Mrs. Reishus urged the members to look at other farm management plans that could be utilized and implemented.

6. **Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting will be January 15, 2017 at 7:00 pm.

7. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:36 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Hoijer,
Recording Secretary