

**Spring Hill Farm Advisory Committee  
November 19, 2018  
Approved Minutes  
7:00 PM**

**Attendance**

**Present:**

Chair Kendall Kunelius  
Willa Coroka  
Emily Kunelius  
Chuck Myette  
Maryann Boulter @ 7:14 pm  
Joe Krasowski  
Cass Buckley

**Absent:**

Maria Oakley  
James Piper  
Joe Castricone  
Colin Costine

**Members of the Public Present at Various Times:**

Cindy LeBlanc

**1. Call to Order – Open Meeting**

Chair Kendall Kunelius called the meeting to order at 7:11 pm.

**2. Review of Minutes**

Ms. Coroka directed that Line 78 should be \$294, not \$194.

*Mr. Myette motioned to approve the minutes of October 15, 2018, as amended. Chair Kendall Kunelius seconded the motion, voting five in favor were: Chuck Myette, Chair Kendall Kunelius, Willa Coroka, Emily Kunelius, Maryann Boulter, and two abstentions, Cass Buckley and Joe Krasowski, so moved.*

**3. Plowing/Maintenance**

Chair Kendall Kunelius stated that Spring Hill Farm had not been plowed. Mr. Myette stated that it was done last year as part of yearly maintenance. Mr. Buckley advised the plowing was done around the perimeter of the house. Emily Kunelius asked if they planned to plow to the high tunnel? Mr. Myette stated keep it mostly open, they did plow to the high tunnel in the past.

**4. Membership Terms**

Mr. Myette stated that he was notified. Mrs. Boulter stated she did not get an email to renew. Mr. Buckley advised that generally after one year, if still active are going to remain a member. Chair Kendall Kunelius advised to refer to the By-Laws. Mr. Buckley stated that each year they re-elect officers. Memberships are

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volunteer positions, if open to the public, can join. Should talk to those who haven't been here to see if they still want to be involved. Ms. Coroka will send out a group email. Mr. Buckley recommended two or three attempts to reach inactive members.

### **5. Miscellaneous**

#### **Cattle**

Mr. Buckley advised someone was interested in leasing the property for cattle.

#### **Mission Statement**

Mr. Buckley recommended opening the meeting with the reading of the Mission Statement to guide discussions, decide what option is best for the farm and the Town.

#### **Haying/RFPs**

Ms. Coroka recapped the Fall Festival, and Foodscaping Class with Mrs. LeBlanc. Chair Kendall Kunelius advised that many proposals had been received in terms of farming and haying had been successful.

Mr. Myette cautioned that you could not guarantee Charmingfare will do the haying again and questioned how to utilize the farm and forest better, considering long term goals and sustainability. Put RFPs out after narrowing down exactly what and where we want to do things and then do trials and error.

#### **Business Plan**

Ms. Coroka raised the issue of having focused on proposals that fell through because of insurance. Mr. Buckley advised the BOS did not have enough notice. Mr. Krasowski suggested that having a business plan can help develop requirements to plan around. Chair Kendall Kunelius stated they could not have foreseen what happened last Winter, they needed to have that test year in order to competently write a plan now. Mr. Krasowski recommended building off what worked or didn't work. Ms. Boulter added ruling out having tenants. Chair Kendall Kunelius reminded they are not a money generating entity, they may break even, but not be profitable. Focus should be on community rather than money. Mr. Buckley advised active members have been focused on activities rather than leasing and shouldn't determine that the Farm can't make money. Chair Kendall Kunelius stated she did not think revenue should be the number one focus. Mr. Buckley stated what's best for the farm may be a combination of revenue and activities. Ms. Kunelius recommended a farm committee to oversee farming activities. Mr. Myette stated they need a group to manage and take responsibility.

Mr. Buckley advised the Committee needs to create agenda items that move forward with the creation of the business plan within the next few months. Mr. Krasowski stated the content is probably already there and just needs to be put into writing.

Ms. Coroka reminded we talked about working groups. One could focus on agriculture, another on education. Mrs. Oakley was passionate about recreation. Mr. Myette stated that he would volunteer for agriculture. Mr. Krasowski stated he was not a fan of subcommittees unless they are done properly. Mr. Buckley stated the business plan should take precedence. Chair Kendall Kunelius stated opening up to a whole new group may bring people with new passions. Mr. Buckley advised a lot of things didn't happen due to lack of knowledge about the farm and now will be able to get more done because people know more about it.

### **300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Mr. Myette advised they were requesting to take part in the parade and/or put on an event.

**Barn**

Mr. Myette recommended building a smaller barn for classrooms in 2022 and bringing in the Timber Framers' Guild. Chair Kendall Kunelius asked if the existing barn would be good until then. Mr. Myette stated it would give three years to plan and fundraise.

**Master Gardener's Project Update**

Chair Kendall Kunelius advised that the Committee is doing a Master Gardener's project next year.

Ms. Coroka advised that a 3D sketch of the Farm is being developed soon. Having a meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Agriculture**

Mr. Myette advised there are a variety of soil types and slopes. Mr. Myette advised someone asked about composting, which would require permitting, something to think about. Chair Kendall Kunelius stated she was concerned about bringing other animal's waste onto the farm. Mr. Buckley stated it would be a lot of work to do it right. Ms. Coroka stated that she liked the idea of having an educational composting center. Chair Kendall Kunelius agreed that it was possible, just difficult.

Mr. Myette stated he did not think the Fire Department using the Farm as a training area was a good idea.

**Next Meeting: December 10, 2018**. Ms. Coroka suggested having it at the Farm. Mr. Buckley stated he was not opposed but was not sure the space is good for that.

**6. Adjournment**

Mr. Myette motioned to adjourn at 8:18 pm. Mr. Buckley seconded her motion, all in favor, so moved.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Hoijer,  
Recording Secretary