

**Spring Hill Farm
Advisory Committee
April 15, 2019
Approved Minutes**

Attendance

Present:

Vice-Chair Emily Kunelius
Chuck Myette
Maria Oakley
Cindy LeBlanc
James Piper

Absent:

Selectman Cass Buckley, Liaison
Chair Willa Coroka
Colin Costine
Joe Krasowski
Kendall Kunelius

Members of the Public Present at Various Times:

Selectman Stephen D'Angelo
Selectman Stephen Landau
Dan Fournier, arrived at 8:30pm

1. Call to Order – Open Meeting

Vice-Chair Emily Kunelius called the meeting to order at 7:12 pm.

2. Member Comments

Chair Willa Coroka has resigned. Vice-Chair Kunelius asked if anyone is interested in filling the Committee Chair position.

Mr. Chuck Myette motioned to elect Vice-Chair Emily Kunelius to the seat. Ms. Cindy Leblanc seconded the motion. Vice-Chair Emily Kunelius, Mrs. Maria Oakley and Mr. James Piper agreed. Approved 5-0-0.

Chair Kunelius asked if anyone is interested in filling the Committee Vice-Chair position.

Chair Emily Kunelius motioned to elect Ms. Cindy Leblanc to the seat. Mrs. Maria Oakley seconded the motion. Ms. Cindy Leblanc, Mr. James Piper and Mr. Chuck Myette agreed. Approved 5-0-0.

3. Public Comments

Selectman Stephen D'Angelo noted Selectman Liaison Cass Buckley (not present) is not running for the Selectman seat. He suggested the Spring Hill Farm Advisory Committee assign another Selectman Liaison.

Selectman Stephen D'Angelo told Chair Kunelius and the committee the Management Plan needs to get done.

4. Review of Minutes

Amendments:

3rd page, section 3.4, second line, remove duplicated "Ms."

4th page, section 3.8, second line, add "if" after "asked" Committee.

Mr. Chuck Myette motioned to accept the minutes, as amended. Mrs. Maria Oakley seconded the motion. Chair Emily Kunelius agreed. Vice-Chair Cindy Leblanc and Mr. James Piper abstained from voting. Approved 5-0-2.

5. Old Business

5.1 Leasing of Fields and High Tunnel:

Chair Kunelius stated although we have asked people of interest to come forward in terms of the High Tunnel rental, still no response.

Chair Kunelius would like a copy of the barn assessment for Dan Fournier (not present). She feels the barn might not be safe for hay storage. Mr. Myette believes the structure is sound and it shouldn't be a problem for hay stacking. He wouldn't hesitate. Mr. Myette has a copy of the report. It is a guideline to whether we fix up and use the barn and use it or keep it historical. Mr. Myette noted the timbers needed to be replaced.

5.2 Workshops and Grounds:

Vice-Chair Leblanc will extend the Foodscape workshop/demo on the right side of the house because it is shadier. She noted the lilacs need trimming.

Vice-Chair Leblanc noted she attended the National Organic Farmers Association's "Edible Forest" workshop on how to design an edible farm on your property. She will experiment on a small area near the fruit trees. Mr. Myette asked about funding for the project. Vice-Chair Leblanc suggested we look for free compost and manure. Selectman Landau believes he can arrange a back hoe to pick up the compost. Vice-Chair Leblanc said she will put together a list of needs for the BOS and Mr. Myette asked her if Ms. Coroka had given her a budget. Vice-Chair Leblanc responded last year's budget was \$300.00 as a joint venture with the Agricultural Committee. Mr. Myette asked for confirmation the joint venture included advertising, etc. Selectman D'Angelo noted PACT can do a 3-5-minute podcast at no cost.

Chair Kunelius noted she is toying with the idea of revenue generating cut flowers in the high

tunnel and space beside it. Vice-Chair Leblanc is interested. She noted in the past she grew 50K snapdragons on 4 irrigated raised beds. The snapdragons were sold at Brighton Farmers Market.

5.2(a) RFP - Charmingfare:

Chair Kunelius reminded Mr. Myette to get the RFP out for Charmingfare. He agreed but stated they might not be interested. Mr. Myette explained to the Selectman that Charmingfare might not be interested as they did not get a 2nd cut last year. They invested \$500.00 and only received 1000 bales in return. Mr. Myette agreed to speak with them.

5.2(b) Lease of land:

Chair Kunelius said she needed clarification on Mr. Fournier's request. Her initial thought was Mr. Fournier would only be using the fields for cows. Selectman D'Angelo asked how it would work with the Advisory Committee's Management Plan and, Chair Kunelius reported back it would be ideal. Mr. Piper noted agreement saying it was ideal as it would be making Spring Hill Farms into a working farm. Discussion ensued between Selectman D'Angelo, Selectman Landau and Mr. Myette regarding the potential lease.

5.3 Business/Management Plan:

Chair Kunelius stated Ms. Coroka had sent her the started plan and asked the Committee the best way to get it completed. Discussion ensued. Mr. Myette suggested splitting the Plan into three (3) sections as follows:

- 1) **Management Plan – Our Mission**
 - This section should discuss how our Mission is directed
 - What we want to do
 - Who manages, etc.
- 2) **Potential revenue**
Activities, etc. to arrive at potential revenue
- 3) **Financial / Business Plan**
This section is a working document and always rotates

Selectman D'Angelo suggested looking at Lamson Farm in Mont Vernon, NH. Langton has smaller acreage, but the model is the same. Lamson Farm turned their house into a historical museum.

Selectman Landau suggested contacting UNH / Thompson School as they are running out of space.

6. Public Comment:

Mr. Dan Fournier introduced himself and discussion ensued on what he can bring to the Town. Mr. Fournier sees holding a Summer Camp with all profit going to the town. Mr. Myette reminded Mr. Fournier the BOS is the ultimate responsible party with the Advisory Committee only making recommendations. He told Mr. Fournier we are looking for skin in the game and are worried about

giving up revenue. Mr. Fournier noted he is not interested in haying fields off Lane Rd. The ten-acre field would be available if someone else wanted to hay. Vice-Chair Leblanc noted concern about the lack of water on those fields. Selectman D'Angelo asked if there was road access. Mr. Myette responded road is passable with 3 properties having easement access. Mr. Fournier sees himself as a groundskeeper. He would mow lawn, etc. to ensure the Town would be proud of it. Mr. Myette asked who would pay for the materials or additional labor required. Chair Kunelius noted she would look at examples from past leases. Mr. Fournier noted he has and will use his own tractor but might want to use the Town's post digger. Mr. Myette noted he would have to keep the digger in repair while using it. Chair Kunelius stated she will look at whether it would serve the Town better with Mr. Fournier caretaking only the fields or caretaking the entire property. She asked Mr. Fournier to send information in advance of next meeting so the Committee will know how to move forward before the next meeting. Selectman D'Angelo reminded the Committee the lease agreement needs to fit into the Management.

7. Adjournment:

Chair Kunelius motioned to adjourn at 9:10 pm. Mr. Chuck Myette seconded the motion, all in favor, so moved.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellyn Bresinger,
Recording Secretary

Next Scheduled Meeting – May 20th, 2019 @ 7:00 pm