

**Spring Hill Farm
Advisory Committee
March 19, 2018
Approved Minutes**

Attendance

Present:

Corinna Reishus, Facilitator
Kendall Kunelius
Emily Kunelius
Colin Costine
Maryann Boulter
Maria Oakley
Tiffany Coroka
Chuck Myette
Joe Krasowski
Cass Buckley
Joe Castricone
James Piper

Members of the Public Present at Various Times:

Richard LeBlanc
Derrick Heins, Vets4kids 501(c)(3) NEVAR Project

1. Call to Order – Open Meeting

Chair Kunelius called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

2. Review of February 19, 2018 Minutes

Mr. Myette motioned to accept the minutes, amended as follows:

Change Mrs. to Ms. Coroka throughout; Line 85 “its to it is” Line 89 punctuation Line 132, “its to it is” and Line 133 punctuation.

Chair Kunelius seconded his motion. With Mr. Castricone, Mr. Piper and Mr. Buckley abstaining due to absence from that meeting, all were in favor, so moved.

Old Business

3. Discussion Points

A. Meet & Greet

Chair Kunelius advised that the Meet & Greet is on for the 31st of March from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

Chair Kunelius stated that Mr. Myette sent over a Power point that they could show at the event. Mr. Myette advised that they should post on the web page about it. Mr. Castricone suggested that talking about the trust has nothing to do with the advisory committee. Mr. Myette responded that it includes the desires of Miss Church. Mr. Castricone suggested having their purpose written down for everyone to see. Mr. Krasowski suggested a vision statement and goals on a slide for people to see directly and agreed with including history rather than hiding it. Chair Kunelius stated that they have a draft of the Mission Statement but that it still needs to be revised. Mr. Krasowski said the purpose was stated in their by-laws and could use something similar to that.

Mrs. Boulter felt that people at the Meet & Greet were going to want to know where the money is coming from. Chair Kunelius stated that timber would be a quicker source of revenue than planting vegetables. Mr. Krasowski felt that it would be premature to talk about future plans at the Meet & Greet. Selectman Buckley advised that if people want things at the Meet & Greet there is no need to promise it to them. Mr. Myette suggested that they should come up with their ideas first and then figure out how to pay for them.

Chair Kunelius questioned whether the timing was right for the Meet & Greet which Mr. Buckley stated could be resolved by notifying people that their meetings were public and anyone could attend. Chair Kunelius suggested making a Spring Hill Farm email for people to send in their suggestions. Mr. Buckley suggested more frequent meetings. It was decided not to hold the Meet & Greet.

B. Review & Revise By-Laws

Mrs. Boulter reviewed the final draft of the by-laws and noticed some things were missing, which included: cleaning up language about alternate members; adding a section on “removal” and adding not having special meetings with provisions and the quorum and minute taking. It was agreed that the “removal” provision was not necessary and to add in a heading for working meetings and change the minutes to be kept in regular and special meetings only. Mrs. Reishus suggested changing the third Monday meeting date to once a month since its not guaranteed that it will be on a Monday. Selectman Buckley suggested clarifying the quorum to be a majority of members present. Mr. Castricone suggested holding off on voting until the changes have been made and reviewed. The Committee expressed their gratitude to Mrs. Boulter for making all these changes.

C. Presentation & Submission of Vision Documents

Mrs. Reishus handed out compilations of the Vision Documents. Mr. Krasowski stated that there were overlapping ideas and that once the decision making process and criteria is established they can select from among the ideas and put a proposal together.

D. Establishing Criteria for Decision Making

Ms. Coroka and Mr. Myette will put something together for the next meeting. Mr. Krasowski stated that once that was done he could put together the proposal for the Vision Documents.

4. New Business

HayFields/RFP

Mr. Myette and Mr. Costine were working to figure out what to do with the open fields. They will be

looking for volunteers. Mr. Piper said that he would volunteer if they had the proper equipment, in order to keep the cost down. Mr. LeBlanc said they would need approximately 200 bales per year to feed the cow. Mr. Piper stated that they would use what the cow needs and sell any extra. Mr. Myette stated that the first cut last year brought in a thousand bales. Mr. Costine stated that he made a draft RFP for bringing in vendors to do haying. Mr. Buckley advised that the BOS has lawyers to check over the final RFP. Mr. Myette stated that they have the option to accept or deny anyone's request. Three hurdles for using vendors are that they would be working under the committee and the BOS; the certified organic status which he believes the town wants to keep which eliminates the use of commercial fertilizer; and not putting equipment on Lane Road.

Mr. Costine said that Spring Hill Farm has serviceable equipment so they don't have to bring their own, the vendors to be responsible for the maintenance of the equipment and they need to feel good about the vendors before making a deal and that most likely they would want to use their own equipment. Chair Kunelius suggested focusing on getting enough hay for the cow as payment right now. The proposal should reflect what the provider is going to be able to do for the Farm more than what the Farm is able to do for the person haying it.

Mr. Buckley motioned to have Mr. Costine edit the RFP and distribute to the other members and bring forward to the BOS. Mr. Piper seconded his motion, with all in favor, so moved.

Organic Status

Mr. Myette reminded that the organic certification has expired at this point and would need to be renewed. Chair Kunelius asked if anyone felt strongly about keeping the organic status. Mr. Piper stated that organic works but would have to weigh the pros and cons of keeping it. Mr. Myette stated that they could still grow crops but would not be able to label them officially organic.

Ms. Coroka asked about the Community Gardens. Mr. LeBlanc opined that it might not work since it had been offered before and people have their own land to plant gardens on.

Forest Management

Mr. Myette advised that the Committee needs to start thinking about putting together a forest management plan. Mr. Piper suggested that it would probably need to generate funds within the first year. Selectman Buckley stated that focus should be on a long-term plan rather than maximizing profit asap. Mr. Piper opined that you can't do much without money.

Rental of the High Tunnel

Mr. Myette suggested renting the high tunnel to someone to get revenue and production out of it. Mr. LeBlanc advised that he had been approached by someone who wanted to rent it and they need to know soon if the committee would approve it. Mrs. Oakley expressed concern about firstly not just accepting the first offer that comes along just because they need money; and secondly that it be inclusive and not exclusive. "If it is leased they shouldn't have to be asking permission to go on the farm since it belongs to the town." Mr. Myette stated that you don't want people walking around unattended, messing up the labor that people have put into things. Mr. Costine and Mr. Krasowski suggested adding clauses to make the people available certain hours during the week to do tours or supervise. The interested party would need to come in and present a formal proposal after the selection criteria is established. Ms. Coroka said that the first criteria is "is it legal?" the second criteria is "does it benefit the farm?" Mr.

Myette suggested focusing on short-term goals rather than long-term right now. Mrs. Boulter stated that even if they don't select her, it can't hurt to listen to the proposal. Chair Kunelius is also interested in renting the tunnel. Mr. Myette asked her to put together a proposal.

The next meeting will be Monday, April 2nd at 7:30 pm.

5. Adjournment:

Chair Kunelius motioned to adjourn at 9:34 pm. Mr. Castricone seconded her motion, all in favor, so moved.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Hoijer,
Recording Secretary