

Spring Hill Farm Advisory Committee  
May 17, 2021  
7:00 PM  
Approved Minutes

**Present (Remotely):**

Beth Sautter, Chair

Corinna Reishus

Chuck Myette

Kristina Snyder

Cindy LeBlanc

Maria Oakley (joined at 7:03)

**Members absent:**

Colin Costine, Alternate

Ted Broadwater, Alternate

Stephen O. Landau, Selectmen's Liaison

**Guests present:**

Kim Rairdon

Chester PACT

**I. Call to Order**

Chair Sautter called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. She welcomed Kim Rairdon and the Committee members introduced themselves. Mr. Myette explained the difference between the Trust and the Advisory Committee. Ms. Rairdon introduced herself.

**II. Old Business**

**A. Approval of minutes – April 19, 2021**

*Ms. Reishus moved to accept the minutes of the April 19, 2021 meeting as written. Ms. LeBlanc seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.*

**B. Treasurer's Report**

The budget is \$2,250 for the Spring Hill Farm line and \$2,000 for the Spring Hill Farm Advisory Committee line. Total expenses for April were \$2,940.70. Heating oil was \$49.67. Electric was \$24.54. The barn electric was \$16.49. The ADA review was \$2,850. The account is now in the red, which was expected, due to the Trust insurance being over \$600, which the Selectmen Board approved and was not on the budget. The insurance will be paid by the general expense budget line for the next fiscal year. The finance director is aware of the issue that the account is in the red for this current fiscal year as we had the extra expenditures that we did not plan for.

44 *Mr. Myette moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Ms. LeBlanc seconded the*  
46 *motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.*

48 **C. Grant application status – Chuck – AARP and 1172 Foundation**

There are two grants. The 1722 Foundation is through New Hampshire Preservation to do sill work and repair the foundation on the barn, and other activities around the barn. The grant was for \$22,000. Mr. Myette reported that the Trust did not receive this grant, but can apply for it again next year.

52 The Trust applied for the AARP grant to cover the cost of upgrading building to be  
54 handicapped accessible. The total was over \$96,000. They have not received an  
56 answer from AARP yet. The response is supposed to come in June. The AARP has  
58 the option to fund either part of it or move it to other organizations that are also  
60 willing to finance projects like this. In the future, the Trust might apply for grants to  
cover pieces of projects. Chairman Sautter said they need to keep applying for  
grants, now that they are familiar with the procedure.

62 **D. Status of cows on farm - Chuck**

Mr. Myette said there are eight cows, including calves and yearlings. They are put into the barn at night due to concern about coyotes. One pasture has been fenced in close to the road at Wason Pond so families can visit the cows. They can have up to ten cows on the property. Mr. Bartels and Mr. Menard have been helpful around the farm, doing some cleanup. They plan to help with the haying of the fields. This will begin in mid-June, and help is always welcome.

68 **E. Milkweed /Monarch butterfly update – Kristina**

70 Ms. Snyder reported that she has been growing milkweed seedlings. Ms. Ragsdale  
72 from Conservation has put out some pollinator seedlings. Ms. Snyder has seeds that  
can be planted in the fall near the pond.

74 She also mentioned the Dandelion Photo Contest, which is ongoing. They are in a  
76 friendly contest with Kingston and Durham. The deadline is June 1<sup>st</sup>.

78 Ms. Reishus congratulated Ms. Snyder for her award as Volunteer of the Year.

80 **F. Fall Fest Update – Cindy**

Ms. LeBlanc is going to start contacting vendors and sending them forms. She is speaking with other vendors who are interested in participating. She spoke with Joe, the gentleman with the trained oxen, and he is interested in participating again this year. She needs to contact Colin regarding tractors. Vendors should sell New Hampshire-made products. Ms. Reishus will contact the Town Fair vendors as well.

86 **G. Wish List Update – Chuck**

88 Mr. Myette sent the Committee members a wish list of things that can be done  
around the farm, including educational and recreational opportunities. Ms. Reishus  
said the middle school summer program students could also participate.

III. **New Business**

**A. Schedule a Volunteer Work Day at SFH?**

The Committee discussed having a work day at the farm. It could use vegetation removal, exposing the wagons, and cleaning the barn. It will be held from 9am to 2pm on June 12<sup>th</sup>, with June 13<sup>th</sup> as the rain date. The Committee will come up with a work plan before that date.

Ms. Snyder asked if this would be posted on the website and the Committee agreed that it should be, and is open to volunteers. Ms. LeBlanc said the volunteers should sign forms to keep track of hours. Chairman Sautter will create a flyer to be approved by the Committee. Water will be supplied and possibly pizza. Ms. Reishus will ask if the water left over from the Town Meeting can be donated. Volunteers will need to commit to attending so as to get an accurate estimate for lunch. Ms. Reishus will send Chairman Sautter the flyer she created for the Earth Day cleanup as a sample.

Ms. LeBlanc asked about the brush and wood on Lane Road. Mr. Myette said Alex Bartels is willing to take care of it after the first hay cut, if he can have the wood. The Committee was in favor of Mr. Bartels' proposal.

**B. Website – Fundraising**

Chairman Sautter said there is a Spring Hill Farm page on the Town website. She asked if it was possible to do a fundraiser for the Trust, like a silent auction, on the Town website? Or would it be better to have a website dedicated just to the Trust? She will discuss this with the Trust trustees.

**C. Review of Action Items**

All action items from the last meeting were completed, except removing the farm equipment. The equipment on Wason has still not been removed.

The Girl Scouts would like to do a Bronze Award project at Wason Pond, erecting a free book library. The Wason Pond Commission didn't feel it was a suitable place for this type of feature. Ms. Reishus recommended they contact Chairman Sautter.

Ms. LeBlanc asked if the Town will be mowing the lawn around the farmhouse. Ms. Reishus will discuss this with John.

**D. Next meeting – Monday, June 21st, 2021**

*Ms. LeBlanc moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 PM. Ms. Snyder seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,  
Beth Hanggeli, Recording Secretary