

Spring Hill Farm Advisory Committee
June 21, 2021
7:00 PM
Approved Minutes

Present:

Beth Sautter, Chair
Corinna Reishus
Chuck Myette
Kristina Snyder

Members absent:

Cindy LeBlanc
Maria Oakley
Colin Costine, Alternate
Ted Broadwater, Alternate
Stephen O. Landau, Selectmen's Liaison

Guests present:

Kim Rairdon
Julia Webb
Mark Desiderio
Buddy Menard
Alex Bartels
Chester PACT

I. Call to Order

Chair Sautter called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

II. Old Business

A. Approval of minutes – May 17, 2021

On Line 55, should be AARP instead of AAPR.

Ms. Reishus moved to accept the minutes of the May 17, 2021 meeting as amended. Ms. Snyder seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Treasurer's Report

Total May expenses were \$77.24. Heating oil was \$40.87. Electricity was \$16.92. The barn electricity was \$19.45. Over budget by \$592.33 which after the June expenses will most likely be about \$670 over budget. This is due to the insurance and the yearly alarm system membership, which were not included in the budget. The Committee will need to look into the three expenditures that were not planned and to make concessions for the 2021-2022 budget.

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

48 **C. Cow and farm status from the Cattlemen**

Chairman Sautter thanked Mr. Menard and Mr. Bartels for attending and providing an update. The Committee would like an update each month during the growing season to see what's going well and what could be going better. They reported that they have over 400 bales of hay cut and baled and stored in the barn. There are seven cows on the property and they are growing. They are hoping for rain. Manure has been spread on the fields after cutting. Everyone is working together and everything is going well. They appreciate the opportunity that has been given to them.

56 Per Ms. LeBlanc, 441 bales to date. Seven broken bales were fed to cows so the
58 cattlemen's share is currently 213.5 bales.

60 **D. High Tunnel status from the Ortins**

The Ortins were not present. Mr. Myette saw that the wagon was out today with fresh vegetables.

62 **E. Grant application status – AARP – Chuck**

64 Mr. Myette said he still has not heard anything, so he will reach out again. Chairman
66 Sautter said the AARP said they will notify the Committee in June.

68 **F. Derry Trail Riders – SHF Benefit Trail Ride – Julia Webb**

Ms. Webb reported that the ride is scheduled for September 26th. Two trailers will be camping in the lower field at Lane Road the night before the ride. The trail will be marked with clothespins and surveyor's tape. On September 27th, the trails will be unmarked.

72 Registration will start at 8 a.m. and the first riders will go out at 9 a.m. All
74 participants will sign a waiver of liability that will waive Spring Hill Trust or Ms.
76 Church's property, and any private property owners who give permission for their
78 property to be accessed. They have not decided which trails will be utilized yet. They
will probably offer two loops, a shorter and a longer one. There were 54 riders at the last ride.

80 Ms. Reishus said they will need to apply to the Technical Review Committee, who
82 will advise them as to which organizations they need to notify. The registration fee
84 will be \$35, which includes two meals and snacks, plus water for the horses and
riders. They do not plan to use a tent due to COVID restrictions but that is up for
discussion depending on existing restrictions. There will not be any spectators.

86 Ms. Reishus said the Town will require a insurance certificate naming the Town of
88 Chester as additional insured.

G. Milkweed/Monarch butterfly update – Kristina

Ms. Snyder reported that she has been out at the farm with members of the Conservation Commission and Kim Rairdon. They found milkweed plants on the property, so are planting seedlings in that area. There are a number of turtle nests in that area, including Blanding's turtles, which are endangered. She has posted signs in the area to protect the turtles. Milkweed is losing its habitat nationally. She will spread milkweed seeds in the fall. She has notified Fish & Game about the presence of the Blanding's turtles.

The Conservation Commission sponsored the second annual Dandelion Photo Contest. Prizes were obtained from businesses in town. The winner is a new resident of Chester. Ms. Reishus suggested framing the winning photographs and hanging them in the Town offices; they will be posted on the Town website and on Facebook.

H. Review of Work Day at the Farm – Beth

Chairman Sautter reported that 32 volunteers participated in the work day, which equals 117.5 volunteer hours. Mr. Myette said they did a lot of cleanup projects. The Derry Trail Riders provided a Porta Potty and the Committee thanked them for this.

I. Repair to Barn Roof

Mr. Myette reported that the barn roof is leaking. Selectman Landau is going to speak with contractors to obtain estimates to repair or replace the roof. Chairman Sautter will also work on obtaining estimates.

J. Introduction of potential member

Mr. Mark Desiderio introduced himself. He and his wife and their 4-year-old daughter moved into Jenkins Farm two years ago. He is interested in contributing to the community. Mr. Myette reviewed the history of the farm and the Trust, and how the Committee is trying to keep Ms. Church's legacy alive. He explained that the Committee would like the Farm to be utilized and enjoyed.

Mr. Desiderio is a trained chef but also has experience in purchasing. He offered his negotiation skills and business sense. Chairman Sautter explained that the Committee would like to open the farmhouse to the public for workshops, etc. They need an ADA ramp, which is a considerable cost.

III. New Business

A. Next meeting – Monday, July 19, 2021

B. Adjournment

Mr. Myette moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 PM. Ms. Reishus seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Hanggeli, Recording Secretary