

Spring Hill Farm Advisory Committee

August 16, 2021

7:00 PM

Approved Minutes

**Present:**

Beth Sautter, Chair

Cindy LeBlanc

Corinna Reishus

Chuck Myette

Kristina Snyder

Kim Rairdon

**Members absent:**

Maria Oakley

Stephen O. Landau, Selectmen's Liaison

Colin Costine, Alternate

Ted Broadwater, Alternate

**Guests present:**

Mark Desiderio

Chester PACT

**I. Call to Order**

Chair Sautter called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

**II. Old Business**

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

*Ms. Reishus moved to accept the minutes of the July 19, 2021 meeting as written.*

*Ms. Snyder seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor. The motion passed 6-0-0.*

In the July minutes, on line 38, Ms. Reishus noted that the figure should be \$35.01 instead of \$3,501.

*Ms. Reishus moved to amend the previous motion to change the June activity to \$35.10. Ms. LeBlanc seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor. The motion passed 6-0-0.*

**B. Treasurer's Report**

In the July minutes, on line 38, Ms. Reishus noted that the figure should be \$35.01 instead of \$3,501. They are over budget \$627.34. The electricity cost for the month of July was \$36.38. As of July 1, \$2,750 is in the Spring Hill Farm line. Minus the cost of electricity, the total as of July 31<sup>st</sup> was \$2,713.62. The Advisory Committee line remains at \$1,500.

*Ms. Snyder moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Ms. LeBlanc seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor. The motion passed 6-0-0.*

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

Mr. Menard and Mr. Bartels were not present to provide an update. Chairman Sautter will ask for a written update in the future, as it is difficult for them to attend.

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

The Ortins were not present to provide an update. Chairman Sautter will ask for a written update in the future, as it is difficult for them to attend.

**E. Grant application status – AARP and Eversource**

Chairman Sautter reported that five New Hampshire organizations were awarded small grants by the AARP for outdoor projects. The SHFAC did not receive one. Next year, they will submit an application again for a smaller amount. Ms. Rairdon volunteered to research grants.gov.

Eversource has not sent the \$2,500 award yet.

**F. Derry Trail Riders – SHF Benefit Trail Ride**

There will be raffles held for Spring Hill Farm's benefit during the ride. Blue Seal will be donating buckets and treats, etc. Spring Hill Farm can donate four bales of hay from Lane Road.

**G. Barn Roof**

Mr. Myette reported that a local contractor, New Hampshire Grand Roofing, has been selected to do the work and the contract is being negotiated. The work should start fairly soon.

**H. Hay Progress**

Ms. LeBlanc reported two of the fields on Lane Road have been cut and will probably be baled tomorrow. Mr. Myette estimated there should be between 100-200 bales. It could be mid-September before the other fields are cut, depending on the weather.

**I. Milkweed/Monarch Butterfly Update**

Ms. Snyder and Mr. Chouinard from the Conservation Commission met with representatives from the National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and

88 Xerces. They examined the habitat up to the pond and made suggestions. It is prime  
habitat for amphibian and other wildlife, not the best for milkweed. Work is needed  
90 to make it ideal for pollinators. They suggested moving caterpillars from the areas  
that will be mowed to more protected areas, where there are established milkweed  
92 plants.

94 The Rockingham County Conservation District is supportive of any work done on  
the farm to improve pollinator habitat. NRCS discovered a large amount of invasive  
species. They recommended protecting the habitat by encouraging people to stay on  
96 the trail by lining it with logs, etc. in sensitive areas. The planned bonfire will not  
impact those sensitive areas. Effects are negligible in the winter, as well. Committee  
98 members will visit the site to further understand the issues.

100 **J. Fall Fest Update**

Ms. LeBlanc reported that participants are being recruited and signed. There are 10-  
102 12 vendors so far. Ms. Rairdon will oversee the children's portion of the festival.  
Volunteers are needed for parking, kids' games, the welcome table, etc. There will be  
104 a raffle and a barn repair donation jar, which was successful in the past. Ms. Reishus  
will order a porta potty.

106 Mr. Myette and Rich will offer hayrides. The question of insurance coverage for any  
108 animals involved was discussed. Owners must carry liability insurance that covers  
their animals when on Town property, naming the Town of Chester as beneficiary.

110 Parking will be in the fields on both sides of the road going into the farm. Mr. Myette  
112 will look at the fields to see if there can be a separate entrance and exit. Town  
Maintenance can provide handicapped signs, if requested. The Fire Department  
114 Explorers will be asked to direct parking. The Technical Review Committee  
requirements have been met. Mr. Myette will print trail maps for the welcome table.

116 Signs will be placed on Wason Road, Towle Road, and Fremont Road. The sign in  
118 the center of town will advertise the festival and possibly the sign at Wason Pond, if  
there is room.

120 The Committee discussed marking the trails for easier identification.

122 **III. New Business**

124 **A. SHF Town Fair Booth (September 11<sup>th</sup>)**

Spring Hill Farm will have a booth at the Town Fair. There will be trail maps and  
126 SHF T-shirts for sale, as well as maple syrup. Anything not sold will be brought to  
the Fall Fest.

128 **B. Open well**

130 Ms. Snyder found an open well on the property near Lane Road with no cover and is  
concerned it is a safety hazard. Mr. Myette will check it out tomorrow.

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**C. Next meeting – Monday, September 20, 2021**

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**D. Adjournment**

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*Ms. Snyder moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:13 PM. Ms. LeBlanc seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed 6-0-0.*

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Respectfully submitted,  
Beth Hanggeli, Recording Secretary

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