

Spring Hill Farm Advisory Committee
September 20, 2021
7:00 PM
Approved Minutes

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Present:

Beth Sautter, Chair
Cindy LeBlanc
Chuck Myette
Kristina Snyder
Kim Rairdon
Colin Costine, Alternate
Stephen O. Landau, Selectmen's Liaison

Members absent:

Corinna Reishus
Maria Oakley
Ted Broadwater, Alternate

Guests present:

Christy Ortins
Nick Ortins
Chris Hadik
Chester PACT

I. Call to Order

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

II. Old Business

A. Approval of minutes – August 16, 2021

Ms. Snyder moved to accept the minutes of the August 16, 2021 meeting as written. Ms. Rairdon seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor. The motion passed 7-0-0.

B. Treasurer's Report

The electricity cost for the month of August was \$18.13 for the farm and \$17.25 for the barn, for a total of \$35.38. There were no expenses, so the Advisory Committee line remains at \$1,500. The vote was tabled as Ms. Reishus was not present, so all figures were not available.

C. Cow and farm status from the Cattlemen

Mr. Menard and Mr. Bartels were not present to provide an update.

D. High Tunnel status from the Ortins

44 The Ortins did another CSA pickup, which they said is going well. The CSA has 15
46 members. They did 20 weeks and have 2 more to go. The Committee congratulated
them on achieving this goal and on the work they've done this year. They are an asset
to Spring Hill Farm.

48
49 The rain has impacted their growing season. They haven't been able to stock the farm
50 stand much due to product being used for the CSA, but plan to have it open on
51 Saturday for the festival. They hope to expand the CSA next year and will do some
52 research this fall in the High Tunnel to see if they can have a spring and a fall
session. The Town Fair went very well for them.

54
E. Grant application status – Eversource
56 Chairman Sautter contacted Eversource. They sent the check for \$2,500 to the farm,
but there is no mailbox there. They will send another one in care of Mr. Myette. A
58 welder from Derry will come to the farm and see how he can help with the ADA
ramp. Mr. Costine said handicapped ramps are often available used and he will
60 check into it. Selectman Landau will call and ask his contact as well.

62
F. Winter Festival
63 Chris Hadik from the 300th Anniversary Celebration Committee asked about the
64 Committee's plans for a winter carnival. They are planning a bonfire and would like
to combine the events. The SHF Winter Carnival is tentatively planned for February
66 26th (the first Saturday of school winter break.) There could be hayrides, ice skating,
bonfire, and a tree-tapping demonstration. They discussed collecting old Christmas
68 trees at the transfer station and burning them in the bonfire.

70
G. Review of SHF Town Fair Booth (Sept. 11th)
71 Ms. Rairdon said people attended who had never been to the Fair before. Chairman
72 Sautter said \$345 was raised at the SHF booth. The booth was in the right place and
was well received. The rest of the syrup will be sold at the Fall Fest.

74
H. Derry Trail Riders – SHF Benefit Trail Ride status
76 Chairman Sautter said the ride is on September 26th. The maps are out. Mr. Myette
will mow the main area where registration and the food will be. Tickets for the raffle
78 and 50/50 will be sold at the SHF Fall Festival as well as at the trail ride.

80
I. Barn Roof
81 Mr. Myette said the repairs have been completed. Selectman Landau asked if there
82 are any other projects over \$5,000 pending, as the Town is working on the
maintenance CIP. Projects suggested were updating the house for handicapped
84 activities, repairing the barn foundation and timbers.

86 **J. Hay Progress**

88 Ms. LeBlanc reported the yield to date is 986 bales. Of that, 493 has gone to the
89 cattlemen and 323 were sold at \$6/bale out of the barn, \$5/bale off the field. Mr.
90 Myette said they are cutting the fields for a second time this week.

92 **K. Milkweed/Monarch Butterfly Update**

93 Ms. Snyder and Deb Munson from the Conservation Commission led a walk and
94 invited experts to obtain advice. They discussed their plans for marking the trails to
95 protect the areas that pollinators frequent. There are also sensitive plant species that
96 need to be protected, some of which are state-endangered. A spring project will be to
97 mark the trails from the High Tunnel to the bridge with logs or other natural
98 materials to keep walkers out of the sensitive areas. They will also add a sign
99 reminding walkers to stay on the trails. There are a few milkweed plants thriving, so
100 seeds will be sown in the fall in that area.

101
102 On October 16th at 11:00 a.m., the Chester Conservation Commission is hosting a
103 presentation on pollinators in the main meeting room of the Town Offices, "Petals in
104 the Wind." Attendance will be limited to meet social distancing requirements and it
105 will possibly be broadcast online.

106 **L. Fall Fest Update**

107 Ms. LeBlanc said plans are going well. Twelve vendors have agreed to participate.
108 Planned vendors and activities include food, music, hayrides, farm implements, face
109 painting, games, crafts, and the trained oxen, if the operator can perform with a
110 broken arm. The cattlemen will have a cow on the grounds. Other festival logistics
111 were discussed.

112
113 Mr. Myette said on Monday, October 4th, Texas Roadhouse in Manchester will
114 donate 10 percent of sales to SHF of people who say they're there for the farm. There
115 will be fliers at the Fall Fest.

116 **III. New Business**

117 **A. New Member Vote - Mark Desiderio**

118 Chairman Sautter said Mr. Desiderio is going to be appointed to the Recreation
119 Commission and will be their liaison to the SHFAC.

120
121 **B. Prepare for discussion of budget for FY 2022-23 (for BOS meeting Nov. 18th)**

122 The FY 2022-23 budget will go before the Board of Selectmen on November 18th.
123 Mr. Myette said the budgets are due on September 27th. Chairman Sautter hasn't
124 received the budget spreadsheet, so will follow up with Town Administrator Debra
125 Doda.

126
127 **C. Action Items**

- 128
- Ms. LeBlanc will contact Alex Bartels regarding wood in the field.
 - Chairman Sautter will submit grant numbers for the farmhouse to Selectman Landau.

- 130 • Ms. Snyder will ask members of the Conservation Commission to assist with parking at
the Fall Fest.
- 132 • Mr. Costine will ask about borrowing electric signs from the Police and Fire Departments
for the Fall Fest.
- 134 • All - Dec. 31 - increase membership by 1

136 **D. Next meeting – Monday, October 18, 2021**

138 Chairman Sautter recommended reviewing the Fall Fest at the next meeting, to make
plans for next year's event while ideas are fresh. Ms. LeBlanc said some vendors,
140 including New Hampshire Fish & Game, need a year's notice to participate, as they
schedule in advance. She recommended picking the date for next year's event this
142 year. She recommended having the event in October, as this year's event was too
close to the Town Fair. It has historically been held on Columbus Day weekend.

144 **E. Adjournment**

146 *Ms. Snyder moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:20PM. Ms. Rairdon seconded the
motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed 7-0-0.*

148 Respectfully submitted,
Beth Hangel, Recording Secretary