

Spring Hill Farm Advisory Committee  
January 25, 2022 - 7:00 PM  
Minutes

**Present:**

Beth Sautter, Chair  
Kristina Snyder  
Chuck Myette  
Stephen O. Landau, Selectmen's Liaison

**Members absent:**

Maria Oakley  
Mark Desiderio  
Kim Rairdon  
Cindy LeBlanc  
Colin Costine, Alternate  
Ted Broadwater, Alternate

**Guests present:**

Corinna Reishus, Chester Recreation Director  
Marilyn Bartlett  
Joe Biedrzycki  
Chester PACT

**I. Call to Order**

Chair Sautter called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. As there was not a quorum present, this is considered a working meeting.

**II. Old Business**

**A. Approval of minutes – November 15, 2021**

The minutes were not approved due to lack of a quorum.

**B. Treasurer's Report**

For November, there were expenses of \$53.65 for the Spring Hill Farm line (heating oil \$17.67, barn electric \$17, house electric \$18.98), which leaves an available balance of \$1,580.66. For the Advisory Committee line, there is a balance of \$1,300.

For December, there were expenses of \$187.69 for the Spring Hill Farm line (heating oil \$106.56, barn electric \$55.28, house electric \$25.85), which leaves an available balance of \$1,392.97. For the Advisory Committee line, there is a balance of \$1,300.

The Treasurer's Report was not approved due to lack of a quorum.

**C. Grant application – NHPA for 2022- Letter of intent**

Mr. Myette reported that the NH Preservation Alliance did not notify the Committee that their Letter of Intent was accepted for the \$10,000 matching grants offered in 2022. The Committee would have been contacted by Dec. 17, 2021 if they were being considered. They will actively look for other grant opportunities. Mr. Biedrzycki mentioned that the NH Humanities offers grants.

**D. ADA ramp for farmhouse**

The estimate for the metal ramp is \$21,595. The Committee agreed this price is steep. Mr. Biedrzycki said an Eagle scout could take on the ramp as a project, which would include raising the funds. Selectman Landau shared information about alternative companies building and renting ramps. The Committee suggested building a wooden ramp; they have no estimate to build a wood ramp. The job should be put out to bid. Selectman Landau will continue to follow up on all of these options.

**E. Status of high tunnel and barn/field – leases/MOUs**

Mr. Myette said the high tunnel lease is in place for another year. The contract was redrafted and given to the Ortins to review. It was renewed as of January 1.

The cattlemen's lease comes up in March. Discussions are being held with the Trust as to how they will work together going into next year.

Mr. Biedrzycki said the entrance to the trail system is awkward. The manure pile is in the way. Mr. Myette said the location is convenient, as the manure is being used on the fields, and the pile is diminishing.

**III. New Business**

**A. Introduction of Marilyn Bartlett**

Ms. Bartlett is interested in being involved in Spring Hill Farm events. The Committee members welcomed her and introduced themselves.

**B. Ms. Rairdon suggestions**

As Ms. Rairdon was not present, Chairman Sautter read a letter outlining her thoughts. They included replacing the ramp to be able to access the farmhouse; holding a volunteer day each month to work on projects; creating a digital map of the trail system; physically adding trail markers and names to the trails; and adding a kiosk with trail map and announcements.

Selectman Landau said trail markers could be created from wood or plastic and marked; he would be willing to help rout and paint them. Mr. Myette noted that the trails are already digitized. There are maps on the Town webpage that can be downloaded. Chairman Sautter suggested making the existing maps more user-friendly and easier to read. Mr. Biedrzycki would like to be involved in a trail subcommittee with Ms. Rairdon. Ms. Snyder reminded the Commission not to create

new trails so as to protect habitat. A kiosk could be located near the entrance to the trails.

**C. Winter Carnival at SHF – February 26<sup>th</sup>**

The Carnival will run from 2 to 7 PM: bonfire 5 to 7 PM, chili cookoff 4 to 5 PM, games and activities 2 to 4 PM.

Mr. Myette said the sledding hill is grown over, so there cannot be sledding during the carnival. It can be cleared as a summer project and possibly keep it open by growing hay on it. The Winter Carnival committee is meeting again on Monday, January 31 to continue planning.

The bonfire will be located where the manure pile is. Recreation Director Corinna Reishus said the pond is good for ice skating. She has started a flyer that will be ready for the January 31<sup>st</sup> meeting. During the event, volunteers will be located around the property for safety purposes.

The PTA is coordinating the chili cookoff and will provide cornbread. The Lions Club will handle providing s'mores supplies. The Boy Scouts will provide hot chocolate. There will be curling and hay rides. Ms. Reishus will research providing snowshoes and cross-country skis. There will be 10x10 warming tents and firepits: one by pond, two by house.

Mr. Biedrzycki suggested the Boy Scouts lead a program at the bonfire, possibly including Native American dancing. He also suggested the American Legion do a ceremonial flag burning; Mr. Myette will contact the Legion. The Boy Scouts will set up a campsite.

Chairman Sautter said there will be another newsletter out before the carnival and will feature the carnival and its events.

Ms. Reishus will bring the cost of Porta Potties to the January 1 meeting. Mr. Myette said the Trust might pay for one. The 300<sup>th</sup> is contributing funds for the Carnival as well.

**D. Other business**

**E. Next meeting – Monday, February 21, 2022**

**F. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10.

Respectfully submitted,  
Beth Hangeli, Recording Secretary