

Spring Hill Farm Advisory Committee
February 21, 2022 - 7:00 PM
Approved Minutes

Present:

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

Members absent:

Maria Oakley
Ted Broadwater, Alternate

Guests present:

Marilyn Bartlett
Chester PACT

I. Call to Order

Chair Sautter called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

II. Old Business

A. Approval of minutes – November 15, 2021 and January 25, 2022 (no vote)

Chair Sautter reported that the minutes from the January 25, 2022 meeting do not need to be approved. The meeting was not official due to a lack of a quorum of members in attendance.

Mr. Desiderio moved to accept the minutes of the November 15, 2021 meeting as written. Ms. Rairdon seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

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.

42 For December, there were expenses of \$187.69 for the Spring Hill Farm line
44 (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.

46 For January, there were expenses of \$341.07 for the Spring Hill Farm line (heating
oil \$198.56, barn electric \$108.41, house electric \$34.10), which leaves an available
48 balance of \$1,051.90. For the Advisory Committee line, there is a balance of \$1,300.

50 Mr. Myette noted the Committee can be reimbursed for part of the barn electricity by
the cattlemen. They have agreed they will pay this cost, which covers running a de-
52 icer for the water tank. Mr. Desiderio will contact Town Finance Officer Marianne
Duffy and ask her to handle this.

54
56 ***Ms. LeBlanc moved to accept the Treasurer's Report for December 2021 and
January 2022. Ms. Rairdon seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in
58 favor. The motion passed unanimously.***

C. ADA ramp for farmhouse

60 Selectman Landau said there is a Boy Scout approaching Eagle Scout rank who
might be interested in building an aluminum ramp. He will update the Committee in
62 the coming weeks. The bathroom remodel can wait, as a portable toilet can be used
until that work is completed. A power door needs to be installed at the top of the
64 ramp. Chair Sautter suggested obtaining a bid for a wood and for a composite ramp.

66 Ms. LeBlanc reported that another Eagle Scout candidate, John Hobden, is
constructing raised bed planters to be placed near the chicken coop. His brother
68 would like to turn the chicken coop into a potting shed, which would also be an
Eagle Scout project.

D. Barn/field – leases/MOUs

72 Mr. Myette reported that the High Tunnel lease is complete. They have had initial
discussions with the cattlemen to renegotiate the terms of their lease, which is up in
74 March. Mr. Myette will update the Committee at the next meeting.

E. Winter Carnival

76 Snow is forecast for this weekend. Chair Sautter said there has been a lot of publicity
78 for the Winter Carnival, so there should be a good turnout. There will be a chili
cookoff, wagon rides, games from 2 to 4 PM and a bonfire from 5 to 7 PM. She
80 encouraged people to take pictures, as this is the first time this event has been held.

82 Parking will be on the road, if conditions don't allow for parking in the field. Mr.
Costine suggested clearing the snow and marking aisles on Friday night, as was done
84 for the Fall Fest. He asked if it would be a risk to advertise for a volunteer to plow.
Selectman Landau said the Town insurance covers volunteers. Chair Sautter will

86 post an ad on Facebook for someone to plow and Mr. Costine will be the contact
88 person.

F. Fall Fest

90 Ms. LeBlanc said the Fall Fest will be held on September 10th, as the Town Fair has
92 been moved to September 24th. Ms. Rairdon will coordinate the kids' activities. Mr.
Costine will coordinate the antique tractors.

94 Ms. LeBlanc would like to start contacting vendors. Ms. Snyder will contact Fish &
96 Game to ask them to participate. Hopefully the musicians will play all day. Chair
Sautter will coordinate the raffle. The funds raised in the past were earmarked for the
98 ramp and the barn. Selectman Landau suggested earmarking the funds for the power
door at the top of the ramp and possibly sending out a mailer to explain the need for
the ramp/door. He also suggested soliciting sponsorships. Mr. Biedrzycki offered to
100 help with publicity.

102 Chair Sautter reported that the Derry Trail Riders are holding their trail ride on
104 September 25th.

G. SHF Newsletter, Issue 2

106 The Committee agreed the newsletter came out very well. Chair Sautter said she has
108 received positive feedback from others. It helps inform the community about the
farm and what's going on there. It will be published every three months, but Chair
Sautter suggested publishing the next issue in two months so it falls in the middle of
110 spring.

112 Mr. Biedrzycki suggested a feature article be written about the farm and the
Committee agreed. Ms. Snyder mentioned in terms of conservation, they need to be
114 equipped for increased usage (parking, facilities, etc.). As traffic increases, this will
become more important. Mr. Myette said stone will need to be brought into the area
116 around the farmhouse for parking, as the surface is currently sand. Mr. Costine
suggested a site on the other side of the road that would be ideal for parking as it is
118 well-drained, but it would still need to have binder applied.

120 Ms. Snyder mentioned having a count done this summer to find out what the
pedestrian traffic looks like over a week. Mr. Myette suggested contact Town
122 Planner Andrew Hadik to find out how to rent the machine that does the count.

III. New Business

A. Vote on addition of new committee member Joe Biedrzycki

124 Chair Sautter reported Mr. Biedrzycki has attended three meetings and shown
126 interest, so has met the unofficial requirements to join the Committee. They are
impressed with his enthusiasm and drive, and what he has to offer. He is excited to
128 participate. He and Mr. Desiderio will attend the Board of Selectman meeting on
March 3rd with Ms. LeBlanc to be approved.

Ms. Snyder moved to invite Mr. Joe Biedrzycki to join the Spring Hill Farm Advisory Committee. Mr. Myette seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Other business

Ms. Rairdon will attach a box to the sign by the High Tunnel for trail maps. Mr. Desiderio will print color maps. The trails are color coded on the maps. Mr. Desiderio suggested the trails be marked. Mr. Myette suggested limiting the number of signs posted on the property. Ms. Rairdon suggested posting colored wooden arrow at intersections. Selectman Landau recommended attaching markers on wooden posts instead of on trees and offered to make any markers needed. Mr. Costine suggested using grade stakes.

The Committee discussed naming the trails. Ms. Snyder will run this by the Rockingham County Conservation District (RCCD) to keep them updated.

Mr. Desiderio would like to begin discussing how to use the Advisory Committee funds before the end of the fiscal year. Selectman Landau reminded the Committee that they don't have to spend the funds to avoid their budget being lowered next year.

Mr. Costine suggested setting up a table at the 300th events, such as the car show and the firefighters' muster, to inform people about the farm. He will discuss this with the 300th Anniversary Celebration Committee. Mr. Costine has a cow patty bingo board and offered to bring it to the farm for use at future festivals.

C. Next meeting – Monday, March 21, 2022

D. Adjournment

Ms. Snyder moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Rairdon seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Haggeli, Recording Secretary

6:50 -