

**Spring Hill Farm Advisory Committee
July 18, 2022 - 7:00 PM
Approved Minutes**

Present:

Kristina Snyder
Chuck Myette
Kim Rairdon
Cindy LeBlanc
Joe Biedrzycki

Members absent:

Beth Sautter, Chair
Mark Desiderio
Colin Costine, Alternate
Ted Broadwater, Alternate

Guests present:

Nick and Christy Ortins
James Butts, Eagle Scout Candidate
Chester PACT

I. Call to Order

Ms. LeBlanc called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

II. Old Business

A. Approval of minutes – May 16, 2022

Line 82 should be the Eagle Scout candidate is **building** four planters.

*Ms. Snyder moved to accept the minutes of the May 16, 2022 meeting as amended.
Mr. Biedrzycki seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor. The
motion passed unanimously.*

The Committee discussed the rules that apply when there isn't a quorum present, as was the case at the June 2022 meeting. Mr. Myette clarified that as it would not be an official meeting, there would be no minutes taken and the camera would remain off.

Mr. Biedrzycki recommended the Trust continue to apply for grants from the New Hampshire Humanities. There are three opportunities to apply each year. Ms. LeBlanc clarified that the Trust applied for the AARP grant and a Historical Preservation grant this year.

44 **B. Treasurer's Report**

Mr. Desiderio was not present, so there was no Treasurer's Report.

46 **C. Fall Fest**

48 Ms. LeBlanc reported on the status of signing up vendors and participants for the
Fall Fest. Some demonstrations will need to be scheduled, which will help stagger
50 parking. Ms. Rairdon will handle the children's activities. There will be raffles,
music, and food as well.

52 **D. Trails/Parking Signs**

54 Ms. Rairdon reported she has finished the trail and parking/no parking signs. Mr.
Myette offered to help install posts for the signs.

56 **E. ADA Ramp**

58 The Committee reviewed the plan for the ramp, which might need to be modified as
it doesn't appear to meet ADA requirements. Mr. Myette said it can be discussed
60 with the Building Inspector as is. There are funds to build it, although it might not
happen before the Fall Fest. The plan will need to be stamped.

62
The Committee discussed possible uses for the building once it is ADA compliant.
64 Mr. Biedrzycki offered to conduct an inventory of the contents. Two bathrooms will
be needed for more than 18 people to be present in the building at one time.

66 **F. Conservation Update**

68 Ms. Snyder met with Doug Cygan from the Department of Agriculture, Invasive
Species Coordinator, along with the Ortins and Ms. Munson from the Conservation
70 Commission. He toured the Farm and discussed non-chemical methods of removing
invasive plants. He recommended clearing a section at a time to avoid being
72 overwhelmed. Ms. Snyder suggested clearing out sections around the pond area first.
The Ortins can help, with their goat project.

74
The Department of Agriculture has a brochure on invasive plants that the
76 Conservation Commission would like to share with the public to help them identify
problem plants.

78 **G. Eagle Scout Projects Progress**

80 Ms. LeBlanc reported the two Eagle Scout projects she signed for are complete,
remodeling the chicken coop into a gardening shed and building planters.

82 **H. Haying Operations**

84 Mr. Myette reported the hay has been knocked down in all fields and some has been
baled. The rest can be baled after a day or two of drying. There have been 20 days
86 of haying and 10 days of repairing equipment. Most of the hay has been sold off the
fields; there are 93 bales in the barn. He predicted there will be approximately 600-
88 700 bales from the first round of haying.

90 **I. Cattlemen**

The cattlemen were not present to share a new season update.

92 **III. New Business**

94 **A. Nick and Christy Ortins**

94 The Ortins reported the CSA is going well this year. They have 24 people
participating and just completed Week 6 pickups. They included microgreens in the
96 last pickup and are very impressed with the operator's operation. The Committee
discussed inviting him to participate in the Fall Fest.

98
The plastic on the High Tunnel is starting to tear, so will need to be repaired. The
100 Ortins will contact the organization that provided the grant to buy the plastic
originally to see if they cover repairs. They discussed their plans for the property for
102 the future.

104 The Ortins are interested in putting a herd of six dwarf goats in the fields at Spring
Hill Farm where the invasive plants are located to eradicate them, so the fields could
106 return to pasture. The goats will be corralled in specific areas by cattle panels, which
would be moved as needed. Their hope is to run this as a business. The goats are
108 friendly and used to being handled by people. They could also use them to remove
the bittersweet from fruit trees on the Farm.

110
Mr. Myette pointed out they will need insurance to cover the animals. The Ortins
112 have insurance for their CSA and will check to see if it covers animals. The
Committee is open to discussing the option of treating this as a barter situation, as it
114 will benefit the Town. The Ortins will need to apply for a business permit and might
need a permit for any shelter built to house the goats.

116
Mr. Myette suggested they put together a proposal to present to the Committee, who
118 will then present it to the Town. The Board of Selectmen will need to approve the
project. A contract/lease might be incorporated into their existing agreement for the
120 High Tunnel.

122 ***Mr. Myette moved to accept the Ortins proposal to put goats on the Spring Hill***
Farm property, contingent on meeting the requirements of the Town. Mr.
124 ***Biedrzycki seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor. The motion***
passed unanimously.

126
B. Eagle Scout – new candidate – James Butts

128 Mr. Butts introduced himself and explained he's looking for an Eagle Scout project.
The Committee shared a list of ideas with him, including the timber frame carriage
130 shed that could be restored and outbuildings that need siding/paint/stain. Mr. Butts
shared his ideas, which include building a bee hotel. The need for a beekeeper and
132 protecting native bees were discussed. Mr. Butts will visit the farm with members of
the Committee to help him decide on a project.

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C. Open Discussion

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Mr. Myette noted the area under the barn has been cleared out. He and Mr. Chouinard, Conservation Commission Chairman, have examined the stone foundation and have ideas on how to rebuild it.

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Ms. Snyder said Wason Pond is hosting a 5K race the morning of July 23rd and a firemen's muster afterwards as part of the 300th anniversary celebration. Mr. Myette said there is also a car show on August 6th at the school.

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D. Next meeting – Monday, August 15, 2022

IV. Adjourn

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

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The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

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Respectfully submitted,
Beth Hanggeli, Recording Secretary

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