

Spring Hill Farm Advisory Committee
August 15, 2022 – 7:00 p.m.
Approved Minutes

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Members present:

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Beth Sautter, Chair

Kristina Snyder

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Chuck Myette

Kim Rairdon

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Cindy LeBlanc

Mark Desiderio (joined at 7:30 p.m.)

12

Members absent:

14

Joe Biedrzycki

Colin Costine, Alternate

16

Ted Broadwater, Alternate

18

Guests present:

Stephen O. Landau, Selectmen's Liaison

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Jaden Gaudet, Eagle Scout Candidate

Vincenzo Minico, Eagle Scout Candidate

22

Scoutmaster

Nick and Christy Ortins

24

Ann Podlipny

Chester PACT

26

I. Call to Order

28

Chair Sautter called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. Old Business

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A. Approval of minutes – July 18, 2022

32

Ms. Rairdon moved to accept the minutes of the July 18, 2022 meeting as written.

34

Ms. LeBlanc seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor except Chair Sautter. The motion passed 4-0-1.

36

B. Treasurer's Report

Mr. Desiderio presented the Treasurer's Report for May, June, and July 2022.

38

40 The May ending fund balance was \$67.73, with a barn electricity cost of \$16.90 and
house electricity cost of \$18.65. The Advisory Committee fund balance was
42 \$577.54, with expenditures of \$600.00 for the Porta Potty and \$120.50 in
reimbursable expenses.

44 The June ending fund balance was \$32.83, with a barn electricity cost of \$17.08 and
house electricity cost of \$18.82. The Advisory Committee fund balance was
46 \$206.94, with expenditures of \$370.47 in reimbursable expenses.

48 The 2021-22 fiscal year ended with a fund balance of \$32.83 and the Advisory
Committee fund balance of \$206.94.

50 The 2022-23 fiscal year started with a fund balance of \$2,750.00 and the Advisory
52 Committee fund balance of \$1,500.00. The barn electricity cost was \$16.74 and the
house electricity cost was \$17.63.

54 The Committee discussed changing electric companies. They will consult with the
56 Town Finance Director and the Town Administrator to begin the process.

58 Selectman Landau asked if it was permitted to install solar panels on the property but
it is not due to the easement.

60 *Ms. LeBlanc moved to accept the Treasurer's Reports for May, June, and July*
62 *2022. Ms. Snyder seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor. The*
64 *motion passed unanimously.*

C. Eagle Scout Candidate Jaden Gaudet

66 Mr. Gaudet presented his plans to build an information kiosk with a bench. It will be
similar to the one located at Forsaith Forest. The Committee discussed the ideal
68 location for the kiosk, which would be near the pond on the farm. Ms. Snyder said it
will need to be approved by the Rockingham County Conservation District (RCCD),
70 who holds the easement on the property. Mr. Gaudet will sell refreshments at the
Fall Festival as part of his fundraising efforts.

72 *Mr. Myette moved to accept the kiosk design as presented by Jaden Gaudet. Ms.*
74 *Rairdon seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor. The motion*
76 *passed unanimously.*

D. Fall Fest

78 Ms. LeBlanc reported the planning for the Fall Fest is coming together and discussed
the vendors who will be participating, including food, activities, and music. The need
80 for insurance for specific vendors was discussed as well as other logistical details.

82 **E. ADA ramp**

84 Mr. Myette reported that dimensional changes are needed to the ramp design due to
86 inconsistencies in the construction and the sizing. These will be sent to the designer.
88 The Committee discussed completing the project before winter. The Board of
Selectmen has approved the Trust on the lease to make the modifications, but the
design will need to be approved by Building Inspector Bunker.

90 **F. Grant possibility**

92 Mr. Biedrzycki has collected information on a number of grants. The Committee will
address this after September.

94 **G. Goats update**

96 Nick and Christy Ortins presented an update on the goat project. Mr. Myette reported
the Board of Selectmen has approved this project. The goats are choosing to eat the
98 invasive plants over other plants. Mr. Ortins asked where to dispose of the trash
being found along the wood line. They agreed they would be willing to help with the
haying in exchange for hay for the goats. Mr. Myette said there is bittersweet and
other invasives around the silo that needs to be removed as well.

100 Ms. Ortins asked if it would be possible to move chickens/roosters onto the property.
102

104 *Ms. Snyder moved to approve the Ortins bringing a chicken flock to Spring Hill
Farm. Ms. Rairdon seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor. The
motion passed unanimously.*

106 **H. Cattlemen – Season update**

108 The cattlemen were not present to offer an update.

110 **I. Newsletter – Subject ideas**

112 The newsletter went out and was well received. The Committee discussed ideas for
items to be included in the next edition.

III. New Business

114 **A. Eagle Scout Candidate Vincenzo Minico**

116 Mr. Vincenzo Minico presented his proposed design for a bat barn that would be
located near the back side of the pond and could house 1,500 bats. He described his
118 plans to maintain and clean the bat barn as well as educating the public about bats.
Committee members will visit the farm on Friday to pinpoint where the bat barn will
be located. He intends to finish the project before winter and his fundraising is
120 already complete. Any extra funds raised will be donated to SHF. Ms. Snyder will
contact the RCCD to discuss this project with them.

122

124 **B. Derry Trail Riders – Sept. 25 Benefit Trail Ride**

Chair Sautter reported the Derry Trail Riders would like to conduct a benefit trail
ride on September 25th that will be similar to last year's. Logistics were discussed.

126

C. Joint Loss Management Committee @ SHF Thursday, October 20

128 Chair Sautter announced that SHF is on the agenda for the Joint Loss Management
130 Committee meeting on October 20th. They will be walking through the farm to look
for health- and safety-related issues that need to be noted and fixed.

D. Reduction of single-use plastic

132 Ms. Ann Podlipny introduced herself and described her interest in reducing single-
134 use plastic in Chester and educating people on the realities of recycling plastic. She
discussed starting an Eco Club at Chester Academy with the principal as well as
136 other activities the Academy could participate in. She proposed holding a trash
pickup day in mid-October and is soliciting help from various groups. The
138 Committee agreed to participate and Ms. Podlipny will follow up.

140 Selectman Landau explained that the Town recycles plastic, but it is difficult to find
142 anyone to buy it. There is no guarantee that the plastic is being recycled and not
buried or burned.

E. Next meeting – Monday, September 19, 2022

IV. Adjourn

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

148 The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

150 Respectfully submitted,
152 Beth Hanggeli, Recording Secretary