

**Spring Hill Farm Advisory Committee  
September 19, 2022 – 7:00 p.m.  
Approved Minutes**

**Members present:**

Beth Sautter, Chair  
Kristina Snyder  
Chuck Myette  
Kim Rairdon  
Mark Desiderio  
Joe Biedrzycki

**Members absent:**

Cindy LeBlanc  
Colin Costine, Alternate  
Ted Broadwater, Alternate

**Guests present:**

Nick and Christy Ortins  
Chester PACT

**I. Call to Order**

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

**II. Old Business**

**A. Approval of minutes – August 15, 2022**

*Ms. Snyder moved to accept the minutes of the August 15, 2022 meeting as written. Mr. Desiderio seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor except Mr. Biedrzycki, who abstained. The motion passed 5-0-1.*

Mr. Biedrzycki asked clarifying questions regarding topics discussed at the last meeting, which he was not able to attend.

**B. Treasurer's Report**

Mr. Desiderio presented the Treasurer's Report for August 2022. August expenses were \$34.70, with a barn electricity cost of \$17.31 and house electricity cost of \$17.39. The farm fund balance is \$2,680.93 and the Advisory Committee fund balance is \$1,500 (100%), as no money has been spent.

*Ms. Snyder moved to accept the Treasurer's Report for August 2022. Ms. Rairdon seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.*



**C. Fall Fest - Review and Debrief**

The Committee reviewed the Fall Fest and said it was very successful. The kids' games were popular and very well done. The raffle, donation box, and vintage photo fees (which Karolyn O'Cull donated back to SHF) totaled \$427. The proceeds from the 50/50 won't be known until after the Derry Trail Riders' trail ride.

Suggestions for next year's festival included sharing the responsibilities among Committee members, sending out a mailer, and posting signs on Route 102 again. They also discussed changing the hours of the festival to 12-4 PM to include a haunted scavenger hunt and holding it later in September to increase attendance. There weren't as many attendees as last year. The hay ride needed to be better advertised and the chocolate trail might be better utilized if it were closer to the farm or participants rode the hay wagon.

**D. ADA ramp**

Mr. Myette reported that an aluminum ADA-compliant ramp has been purchased for \$2,750. Mrs. Desiderio has volunteered to work on designing the foundation. The Committee thanked Mr. Myette and Mr. Chouinard for their time in researching and completing this purchase. Funds are still available to install doors and possibly a handicapped bathroom.

**E. Grant possibilities**

Mr. Biedrzycki reported that there are grants available, but he would need to apply for specific uses of the funds. The Committee discussed a number of projects that are of interest. He will bring a list of available grants to the next meeting.

**F. Goats update**

Nick and Christy Ortins presented an update on the goats. They asked if a stall could be used in the barn during the winter and the Committee agreed. The Committee suggested that a structure could also be erected to house the goats. There were 25 people signed up for the CSA program this year. They participated in a monthly Farmers Market, but were unable to open the farm stand. They are investigating planting perennial plants, such as grape vines, but would need more space and a long-term lease, which would need to be brought before the Town. They also discussed the possibility of starting a community composting operation.

**G. Cattlemen update**

The cattlemen were not present to offer an update.

**H. 300th Parade discussion**

The Committee discussed having a float in the parade and will look for volunteers.

**I. Derry Trail Riders - Sept. 25 Benefit Trail Ride**

Chair Sautter updated the Committee on the preparations for the trail ride.



**J. Eagle Scout projects**

Ms. Snyder reported that the Rockingham County Conservation District (RCCD) is discussing the proposed information kiosk and bat house. They are concerned about anything being located close to the pond, due to the need to protect sensitive habitat. They said there are no bat colonies in Chester and are deferring all decisions regarding the bat house to the New Hampshire Fish & Game Department. She recommended creating a list of potential projects near the farm house for future Eagle Scout projects.

Mr. Myette suggested inviting representatives from RCCD to attend a SHFAC meeting to discuss the easement and their desires on how to utilize and manage it, as well as the Committee's goals and desires. Ms. Snyder would like RCCD and Fish & Game to visit the farm and examine the habitat.

The Committee discussed the role the SHFAC should be playing now and in the future with regard to Boy Scout projects located on the property.

**III. New Business**

**A. Lane Road maple trees**

Mr. Myette reported Ryan is no longer interested in tapping the trees. Andy Chisholm from Chisholm Farm in Hampstead is interested and has spoken with the Trust. He has proposed a one-year sugar bush lease, although he is interested in a multi-year lease. The Committee discussed the details of the proposal and that any existing tubing not being used should be removed.

*Mr. Biedrzycki moved to lease the maple trees to Mr. Chisholm. Mr. Desiderio seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor except Ms. Snyder, who abstained. The motion passed.*

**B. Budget considerations for next year**

Chair Sautter suggested increasing the amount requested in the budgeting process this fiscal year and asked the Committee to think of items needed (pop-up tent, folding tables, increasing the length of time the Porta Potty is rented, furnishings for the farmhouse) and obtain prices. The Committee also discussed creating a calendar of events for activities.

**C. Winter Fest**

Mr. Desiderio reported that the Recreation Committee is interested in working on a Winter Festival again this year. The Committee discussed potential activities, including a bonfire earlier in the day and possibly holding it on February 18th.



**D. Next meeting – Monday, October 17, 2022**

128 **IV. Adjourn**

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

132 The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

134 Respectfully submitted,  
Beth Hangeli, Recording Secretary