

Spring Hill Farm Advisory Committee (SHFAC)
November 14, 2022 – 7:00 p.m.
Approved Minutes

Members present:

Beth Sautter, Chair
Cindy LeBlanc
Kristina Snyder
Mark Desiderio
Joe Biedrzycki
Chuck Myette

Members absent:

Kim Rairdon
Colin Costine, Alternate
Ted Broadwater, Alternate

Guests present:

Chester PACT

I. Call to Order

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

II. Old Business

A. Approval of minutes – October 17, 2022 chuck, cindy. Joe abstain.

Mr. Myette moved to accept the minutes of the October 17, 2022 meeting as written. Ms. LeBlanc seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor except Mr. Biedrzycki, who abstained. The motion passed 5-0-1.

B. Treasurer's Report

Mr. Desiderio reported expenses for September and October, as he was not present at last month's meeting.

August ended with \$2,680.93 in the General Fund and \$1,500 in the Advisory Committee fund.

For September, the barn electricity was \$18.50 and the house electricity was \$18.62. The annual insurance expense was \$757.50. The total in the General Fund was \$1,886.31.

For October, the barn electricity was \$17.28 and the house electricity was \$17.46. The current total in the General Fund is \$1,851.51 and the Advisory Committee fund remains at \$1,500.

44 *Ms. Snyder moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Ms. LeBlanc seconded the*
46 *motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.*

C. Winter Festival

48 Recreation Director Corinna Reishus reported on the results of the work session held
50 earlier to plan the Winter Festival. It will be held on February 18, from noon to 5:00
52 p.m. The working group will meet again on January 9 at 6:30 p.m. Anyone interested
in planning the Festival is invited to attend.

Potential activities discussed include a chili cookoff at 2:00 p.m. and a bonfire
between 3:00 and 5:00 p.m. The Boy Scouts will be manning the bonfire. There will
also be a cocoa bar and hayrides. The Lions will be participating as will the SHF
Trustees. Ice skating on the pond will be discussed, depending on the weather.
Director Reishus will contact Jay to see if he's interested in putting on a curling
demonstration. Chairman Sautter will research sled dogs participating. She will try
to get volunteers to help Ms. Snyder and Mr. Victor Chouinard with parking.

Mr. Myette questioned why the Festival was being held before school vacation and
Director Reishus explained that they group believed families might be in town, as it's
President's Day weekend. Director Reishus will work on flyers and emails.

D. ADA Ramp - Foundation Update

Mr. Chouinard updated the Committee on the status of the ramp. A stamped design
was presented to Building Inspector Bunker, but he has asked for more information.
Mr. Chouinard will meet with him to find out what additional information is needed.
Applying for permits should move quickly, once the design is approved. Work might
begin inside the house this winter, depending on how quickly permits can be
obtained.

E. Boy Scout Projects

Ms. Snyder reported the Rockingham County Conservation District (RCCD) has not
received approval from New Hampshire Fish & Game to be able to approve the
Eagle Scout candidates moving forward with their projects, due to their proximity to
endangered species habitat. The RCCD said local, state, and national permits must be
obtained. They recommended the structures be mobile if/when species impacts
should arise.

Mr. Chouinard reported on the status of the bat barn project. The candidate has
devised an alternate plan, due to pushback. It will be located on a town-owned site
purchased with conservation funds. A Natural Heritage Bureau (NHB) check was
run on the property and a concern arose, but it has since been resolved. The original
design has been altered and the barn will be smaller and located away from areas of
concern.

88 The Committee discussed the status of the information kiosks. They suggested one
90 could be erected near the farmhouse, with historic pictures and information about the
92 farm. This would avoid problems that could arise from it being located close to the
94 pond. The other kiosk will be across the road from the farmhouse, near the trailhead.
96 The Committee discussed the feasibility of the kiosks being mobile, but decided this
98 would present a safety hazard as well as be more likely to be vandalized.

Ms. Snyder is researching hiring a company to perform a reptile and amphibian
survey before the projects are approved, as Fish & Game is understaffed. This survey
should help RCCD with their evaluation of the projects. The cost of this would be
covered by the Chester Conservation Committee.

Ms. Snyder asked about the timeline, as the projects must be completed before the
candidates turn 18. Mr. Biedrzycki will find out when they will be aging out.

The Committee thanked Ms. Snyder for her work on this project.

F. Newsletter

Chairman Sautter reported that the newsletter has been sent out. The next one will be
published in early February. Topics covered could include the reasons for requesting
that visitors stay on the trails and keep their dogs leashed. This is to make the
property be useful and safe for all parties using it, including humans, dogs, and
wildlife.

G. Joint Loss Management Committee Review - results

Chairman Sautter shared the findings/observations of the Joint Loss Management
Committee Review with the committee. Mr. Myette said all items on the list will
need to be resolved before the farmhouse can be opened. He said the Town will be
creating work orders and overseeing these items being resolved.

H. Web Page History Update - Steph

Selectman Landau was ill and did not attend the meeting. Mr. Biedrzycki is working
on updating the website, including the historic information as well as information on
the current status of the farm and activities. Selectman Landau would like to meet
with Mr. Biedrzycki to discuss this project. Mr. Myette cautioned Mr. Biedrzycki
regarding giving proper credit for any copyrighted wording, although it could be
rewritten.

I. Looking Forward - Planning for 2023 in Jan Meeting

There will be no meeting in December. At the January meeting, Chairman Sautter
would like to discuss creating an annual plan. Mr. Myette said work could be done
inside the house before the ramp is installed. He also noted that the Committee will
need to ensure that funds and manpower are available for any proposed projects. A
plan is in place to inventory materials in the attic in the spring.

132 **III. New Business**

134 **A. Andy Chisholm - Maple Trees**

134 Mr. Myette updated the Committee on Andy Chisholm's request to tap the maple
136 trees on Lane Road. Mr. Chisholm will be submitting a final draft of a contract. He is
138 president of the New Hampshire Maple Association. Mr. Myette suggested Mr.
Chisholm might participate in the Winter Festival and could possibly label some of
the products for Spring Hill Farm.

140 **B. Greg Pollock - Leasing Fields**

140 Greg Pollock from Sunfox Farm is interested in leasing some of the fields at SHF to
142 grow other crops, which could include organics and sunflowers. Mr. Myette
144 suggested they submit a plan for the Committee to consider. They have a
considerable background in farming. Perhaps fields that are not good for hay
production could be used for other crops and bring in revenue.

146 **C. SHF Logo**

148 Mr. Biedrzycki asked if there was a logo for the farm. Mr. Myette will send him
150 copies of the Trust letterhead and the digital logo that is currently used for shirts and
maple syrup bottles.

152 **D. Next meeting – Monday, January 16, 2023**

IV. Adjourn

154 *Ms. Snyder moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Myette seconded the motion. A vote was*
156 *taken, all were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.*

158 The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

160 Respectfully submitted,
Beth Haggeli, Recording Secretary