

Spring Hill Farm Advisory Committee (SHFAC)
January 16, 2023 – 7:00 p.m.
Approved Minutes

Members present:

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

Members absent:

Cindy LeBlanc
Colin Costine, Alternate
Ted Broadwater, Alternate

Guests present:

Stephen O. Landau, Selectman
Ann Podlipny
Marilyn Bartlett
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 – November 14, 2022

Mr. Biedrzycki noted that line 123, "information" should be changed to "wording."

Mr. Myette moved to accept the minutes of the November 14, 2022 meeting as amended. Ms. Rairdon seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor. The motion passed 6-0-0.

B. Treasurer's Report

Mr. Desiderio shared the Treasurer's Report for November and December.

For November, total expenses from the General Fund were \$258.96. Heating oil was \$224.14, the barn electricity was \$17.35, and the house electricity was \$17.47.

40 For December, the cost of the utilities was not submitted. Expenses for the Advisory
Fund were \$2.90 for copies.

42
44 He noted that in August, there were \$80.05 in reimbursable expenses for the Fall
Festival.

46 The balance in the General Fund is \$1,592.63. The balance in the Advisory
Committee Fund is \$1,417.05.

48
50 *Ms. Rairdon moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Ms. Snyder seconded the
motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.*

52 **C. Winter Festival Update**

Chairman Sautter shared a flyer created by Recreation Director Reishus. She said
54 most of the activities from last year's festival will be repeated, with the exception of
curling. Activities include sled dog demonstration, ugly hat contest, chili cookoff,
56 kids' games, hay ride, maple syrup demonstration, bonfire, and possibly
snowshoeing. Volunteers are needed. They are relying on word of mouth and social
58 media to advertise the event, and it will be included in the SHF newsletter and on the
website.

60
62 **D. Lease Discussions**

Maple: Mr. Myette presented a proposed sugarbush lease with Chisholm Farm,
LLC. Ryan's Sugar Shack is out of business, so Andrew Chisholm asked to take over
64 the lines on the North Chester field. Payment would probably be in syrup, which is a
similar arrangement to the agreement with Ryan. Mr. Myette will continue to discuss
66 this with Mr. Chisholm.

68 Selectman Landau asked if the SHFAC would be interested in Ryan's sugar shack
equipment. They discussed who would run it and where it would be stored. The
70 Committee expressed a future interest, as it would mesh with the mission of the
farm.

72
74 **Sunflower:** Mr. Myette has not heard from the people interested in growing
sunflowers.

76 There are two additional leases, with the cattlemen and the Ortins for the high tunnel,
which will be continued.

78
80 **E. Planning for 2023 - Projects, Purchases, Goals**

The Committee discussed projects for 2023, which included:

- 82 1. **ADA ramp and access to the farmhouse.** There is still an issue with the
84 foundation that needs to be cleared with Building Inspector Bunker. Once the
86 ramp is complete and the doorways are widened, as long as handicapped
88 porta-potties are provided until the bathrooms are remodeled, the house can
90 be used for public events.

92 The Committee discussed what could take place in the farmhouse, including
94 meetings, 4H Club, a museum, special events, seminars, and workshops on
96 tracking, photography, or gardening. Mr. Biedrzycki suggested discussing
98 who could use the farmhouse and for what type of events before planning any
100 activities.

102 The SHF Trust is willing to invest in this project.

- 104 2. **Restore the barn and tack shack.** Mr. Myette said Mr. Victor Chouinard
106 has braced the tack shack, but it needs new siding and a new roof.
- 108 3. **Farmhouse bathrooms.** The Committee discussed plans for remodeling the
110 bathrooms in the farmhouse. Selectman Landau is willing to donate antique
112 fixtures.
- 114 4. **Fields.** Mr. Myette and Mr. Chouinard have been clearing the fields and
116 eliminating invasive plants.
- 118 5. **Habitat-Specific Species Surveys.** Ms. Snyder has obtained proposals from
120 companies that perform surveys on specific species. The Conservation
122 Commission would coordinate and pay for these surveys, but the SHFAC
would need to approve them. The Rockingham County Conservation District
(RCCD) is not willing to approve projects on the property, such as Eagle
Scout projects, without input from New Hampshire Fish & Game. As F&G is
understaffed, RCCD is willing to accept these surveys instead. The SHFAC
agreed the surveys could proceed.
- 124 6. **Invasive Species Removal.** Representatives from RCCD toured Wason Pond
and SHF to investigate the invasive species present. They are willing to treat
designated areas to remove these species. RCCD will submit a proposal and
the Conservation Commission is willing to pay for this service. Ms. Snyder
asked which areas of SHF the Committee would like treated. The Committee
discussed that the farm has been maintained as organic, although it is not
certified, and which areas could be treated safely, and identified areas that
would need to be avoided.

Chairman Sautter proposed that individuals volunteer to be a champion of the
smaller projects, to oversee and coordinate them. Replacement of the barn doors is
an example of a project that could be championed. She will send a list of projects to

the members and ask for volunteers at the next meeting.

F. Web Page History Update

Selectman Landau said he and Mr. Biedrzycki will discuss this issue in the near future.

G. Eagle Scout Projects

Selectman Landau updated the Committee on the status of the proposed Eagle Scout projects. The kiosk originally proposed to be located near the pond will be a portable unit, so can be moved to the farmhouse instead. The bat barn is going to be installed on another property.

Ms. Podlipny asked why the Town trails aren't marked. Mr. Myette explained there are 13 trail maps, but only SHF and Wason Pond are publicized. The others are not published because the Town does not have control of the properties. He said if someone championed this project, they might be able to convince property owners to allow people to use the trails on their property.

Ms. Snyder suggested building nest boxes for flying squirrels as a potential project. She will share plans with Selectman Landau.

III. New Business

A. Visual Identification of the SHFAC

Mr. Biedrzycki presented a "service mark," a silhouette of the farm buildings, to be used on correspondence, newsletters, etc. It would serve as a consistent identifier for the farm. The Committee approved it.

B. Grants

Ms. Podlipny offered to share information on sustainability and agriculture grants with Mr. Biedrzycki.

C. Next meeting – Monday, February 13, 2023

IV. Adjourn

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Hanggeli, Recording Secretary