

**Spring Hill Farm Advisory Committee (SHFAC)**  
**May 15, 2023 – 7:00 p.m.**  
**Approved Minutes**

**Members present:**

Beth Sautter, Chair  
Kristina Snyder  
Kim Rairdon  
Chuck Myette  
Joe Biedrzycki (arrived at 7:17 p.m.)

**Members absent:**

Cindy LeBlanc  
Mark Desiderio  
Ann Podlipny  
Colin Costine, Alternate  
Ted Broadwater, Alternate  
Stephen O. Landau, Board of Selectmen Liaison

**Guests present:**

Chester PACT

**I. Call to Order**

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

**II. Old Business**

**A. Attendance**

**B. Approval of Minutes – April 17, 2023**

*Ms. Rairdon moved to accept the minutes of the April 17, 2023 meeting as written. Ms. Snyder seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor. The motion passed 4-0-0.*

**C. Treasurer's Report**

Mr. Desiderio was not present and did not supply a report, so the Treasurer's Report was tabled until next month.

**D. SHF Brochure Update**

Mr. Biedrzycki shared the recent draft version of the brochure, which the members discussed. He will perform the suggested edits and share it with the members again.

**E. Site Plan and Septic Inspection for SHF**

Mr. Myette reported the inspection of the septic tank has been rescheduled but should occur in the next week or two. Mr. Victor Chouinard turned on the water,

44 repaired a split pipe, and filled the tank with water. The tank can now be inspected,  
45 as there is water in the house.

46 The ramp footings design has been accepted by Building Inspector Bunker.  
47 However, a site plan is needed that includes the size and location of the buildings,  
48 where the ADA ramp will be, and the location of parking. No work can be completed  
49 on the farmhouse without the site plan. A surveyor has volunteered to do the survey  
50 for free but it has not been scheduled. Mr. Desiderio's wife is working with the ADA  
51 specialist at her firm to sketch a design plan for the inside work. Mr. Myette hopes  
52 all work will be done by mid-summer.

53  
54 Mr. Myette reported he and Mr. Chouinard have examined the tack shack. A timber  
55 framer has also inspected it and offered suggestions. Options include disassembling  
56 it and then reassembling it or jacking it up, squaring it, and then replacing it on the  
57 foundation. This project will continue to be discussed.

#### 58 **F. Grant process**

59 Chair Sautter noted that Eversource changed the earlier grant request submitted by  
60 Spring Hill Farm for \$6,000 to \$2,500. She suggested requesting the higher amount,  
61 as Eversource will reduce the amount, if they decide it is more appropriate. Mr.  
62 Biedrzycki will submit the grant.

63  
64 Mr. Biedrzycki reported he hopes to hear about the AARP grant in the next week or  
65 two. He suggested the moose plate project might be worth doing for the  
66 spring/summer.

67  
68 Mr. Myette suggested the Committee should select specific projects to focus on and  
69 filter the numerous grant opportunities accordingly. Any amount requested should  
70 include the cost of professional help (plumbing, electrical), such as installing the  
71 ADA-compliant bathroom. The Committee discussed extending the subscription of  
72 Grant Watch for a year, if Mr. Biedrzycki feels it is worthwhile. He will respond at  
73 the next meeting.

#### 74 **G. Plastic Bench**

75 Chair Sautter explained that the Board of Selectmen decided the Trex bench Ms.  
76 Podlipny obtained by collecting 500 pounds of plastic bags should be located at  
77 Spring Hill Farm. The Committee agreed it should be placed near the farmhouse,  
78 under the tree near the tire swing.

#### 79 **H. Town-Wide Yard Sale – August 19th**

80  
81 Chair Sautter suggested participating in the Chester Town-Wide Yard Sale. All  
82 participants are included on a map and listed in the advertising. This will be  
83 discussed at a later meeting.

Mr. Myette reported Ms. LeBlanc and Mrs. Myette began to inventory the contents of the attic, but the project is larger than anticipated. The intention is to categorize items on a spreadsheet, including pictures. Members volunteered to help Ms. LeBlanc and Mrs. Myette with the project.

**I. Purchase Pop-Up for SHF**

Chair Sautter suggested purchasing the pop-up in this fiscal year and will pursue this.

**J. Mini Workday at Farm**

Chair Sautter reviewed the projects that have been suggested. It was recommended to have the workday in early June, before haying begins. As Ms. LeBlanc was not present, Chair Sautter will speak with her about possible dates.

**K. SHF Reappointments**

Chair Sautter noted that her and Mr. Costine's three-year stints are up. The Committee agreed they should retain their current roles.

**L. Moosewood Ecological LLC at SHF**

Ms. Snyder reported that representatives from Moosewood Ecological have begun surveying the property. She shared that they reported the project is progressing nicely. They are mainly focusing on reptiles and amphibians but will soon shift their focus to spring plants and nesting birds.

**M. Pollinator Seed Kits**

Ms. Snyder shared that Ms. Deb Munson of the Chester Conservation Commission has spearheaded a contest with Pollinator Pathways to give away five pollinator seed kits. The deadline to enter is Friday, May 19th.

**N. Property Update**

Ms. Snyder said there is a tree blocking the path to the pond, but she and Mr. Chouinard will remove it.

**III. New Business**

**A. Next meeting – Monday, June 19, 2023**

**IV. Adjourn**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Beth Hanggeli, Recording Secretary