

**Spring Hill Farm Advisory Committee (SHFAC)
September 18, 2023 – 7:00 p.m.
Approved Minutes**

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Members present:

6 Beth Sautter, Chair

Kristina Snyder

8 Chuck Myette

Kim Rairdon

10 Joe Biedrzycki

Ann Podlipny

12 Stephen O. Landau, Board of Selectmen Liaison

14 **Members absent:**

Cindy LeBlanc

16 Mark Desiderio

Colin Costine, Alternate

18 Ted Broadwater, Alternate

20 **Guests present:**

Chester PACT

22 **I. Call to Order**

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

24 **II. Old Business**

A. Attendance

26 **B. Approval of Minutes – August 21, 2023**

28 Regarding the discussion from the August 21, 2023, meeting, Chair Sautter said she
was notified by Finance Director Joanne Smith that the expenditure made in June
30 that arrived after the end of June could not be included in the previous fiscal year
expenses. Selectman Landau clarified that once the auditors have come in, expenses
cannot be included in the prior fiscal year and Chair Sautter verified that was the
32 information she received. It was not a large expense, so will not negatively impact
this year's budget.

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36 Mr. Biedrzycki noted he submitted expenses at the end of August for June and July
access to the GrantWatch website. These will be included in this year's budget.
38 Selectman Landau pointed out the GrantWatch subscription has been taken over by
the Town, so it will no longer be included in the Spring Hill Farm budget.

40 *Ms. Rairdon moved to accept the minutes of the August 21, 2023, meeting as
presented. Ms. Snyder seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor.
42 The motion passed unanimously.*

44 **C. Treasurer's Report**

Mr. Desiderio was not present, so there was no Treasurer's Report.

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D. Cattlemen Update

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The cattlemen were not present to provide an update.

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E. Geary Farms Update

Nick and Christy Ortins were not present to provide an update.

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F. SHF Brochure Update

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Mr. Biedrzycki reported that plastic brochure displays and brochures have been distributed to seven locations in town and asked for a volunteer to place the final one at the Old Post Restaurant. As of September 11th, the holders still had brochures in them. Seventy-five brochures are missing from the inventory. The Committee discussed other methods of distributing the brochures and agreed to place the information on the Town website and Facebook page. Mr. Biedrzycki will discuss whether it is appropriate to send the brochure to the Town email list with Town Administrator Debra Doda.

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G. Trail Map Update

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Ms. Rairdon said trail maps were given out at the Town Fair and are located in the box at the Farm. She will have them available at the Fall Fest as well.

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H. Site Plan Status

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Mr. Myette said the intended uses of the farmhouse need to be submitted to Building Inspector Myrick Bunker. The number of people using it at one time will determine how many bathrooms are needed. Mr. Biedrzycki volunteered to draft this information to be submitted to Mr. Bunker.

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The Committee agreed to create a poster with pictures of the inside of the farmhouse to be displayed at the Fall Fest.

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I. Grant process

Eversource has not informed the Committee regarding the grant awards. Mr. Biedrzycki updated the Committee on the grants he is pursuing: the Land Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP), also known as the moose plate grant, and the New Hampshire Community Center Investment Program (CDFA).

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J. Haying Update

Mr. Myette reported the first cut has been completed on all fields dry enough to work. A second cut will be done this week. There have been equipment issues and repairs have been done. Chair Sautter noted three-quarters of the hay was sold out of

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86 the field and 27 bales brought back to the barn. Some bales were lost last month due
88 to equipment failures and bad weather. The Committee estimated approximately
1,100 bales were harvested.

90 **K. Town Fair**

92 The Committee discussed the Town Fair. Attendance was light, possibly due to the
hot, humid weather. Ms. Snyder noted there were a lot of competing events, which
94 could explain the lower numbers as well. Mr. Myette said the vendors did well. New
residents visited the SHF table to learn about the Farm.

96 **L. Derry Trail Ride**

98 Chair Sautter said approximately 30 riders participated in the trail ride and the
response was positive. There was an incident with ground bees stinging two horses
and riders, and one rider was thrown. 911 was called and emergency response
100 arrived, using the ATV. The injured rider refused care and went home; the other
rider and horses were extracted from the area.

102 One positive was that the trails were numbered per the recommendation of the TRC,
104 so the riders were able to accurately report their location to 911. They also said
having important phone numbers on the map was helpful.

106 The raffle netted a total of \$309, with the horse picture earning over \$200 (tickets
108 were \$5 for the picture). They will do the same with another picture at the Fall Fest.

110 **M. Fall Fest**

112 Chair Sautter shared a report from Ms. LeBlanc about the status of preparations for
the Fall Fest. The Committee discussed what still needed to be done. They were
114 pleased that a large number of vendors have registered. The schedule of events will
be posted during the week.

116 **N. Chester Conservation Commission Update**

118 Ms. Snyder shared posters that Moosewood Ecological created of some of the
species they have found on the property during their natural resources inventory
(NRI). These will be displayed at the Conservation booth at Fall Fest. She mentioned
120 they will be doing a Town-wide NRI as well, which will be incorporated into the
Master Plan.

122 She noted in the Lane Road area, the beech trees are producing a large amount of
124 beechnuts, which are good wildlife food. The trees are being enveloped by
bittersweet, which needs to be removed to ensure they survive. Selectman Landau
126 pointed out the largest beech tree in the state is located off Candia Road.

III. New Business

128 **A. Dogs Off Leash at SHF**

130 Mr. Myette received an email from a resident who encountered dogs running off-
131 leash on the trail near the High Tunnel. The owner did retrieve them, but the resident
132 was frightened. There is an ordinance at Wason Pond that dogs must be on leash..

134 The Committee discussed how to address this issue. Selectman Landau pointed out
135 the RSA states dogs must be under voice control; they do not have to be leashed. The
136 Trust and the Committee can erect a sign without Selectboard approval. To require a
137 leash changes the RSA, so the Committee would have to appear before the
138 Selectboard and request an ordinance be passed. They agreed that enforcement is
139 difficult and a penalty would need to be associated with it. Law enforcement would
140 also need to be involved to enforce the ordinance.

142 Selectman Landau suggested advertising that attendees at the Fall Festival must have
143 their dogs on a leash to see how it is received.

144 *Ms. Snyder moved to request an ordinance that all dogs on the mapped trails at*
145 *Spring Hill Farm must be on a leash. Ms. Rairdon seconded the motion. A vote*
146 *was taken and the motion passed 4-0-3.*

148 Chair Sautter will contact the Selectboard to pursue this.
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B. Next meeting – Monday, October 16, 2023

152 **IV. Adjourn**

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

156 The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

158 Respectfully submitted,
160 Beth Hanggeli, Recording Secretary