

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

Members present:

Beth Sautter, Chair
Cindy LeBlanc
Kristina Snyder
Chuck Myette
Mark Desiderio
Kim Rairdon
Ann Podlipny
Stephen O. Landau, Board of Selectmen Liaison

Members absent:

Joe Biedrzycki
Colin Costine, Alternate
Ted Broadwater, Alternate

Guests present:

Chester PACT

I. Call to Order

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

II. Old Business

A. Attendance

B. Approval of Minutes – September 18, 2023

On line 71, change "submit this information to" to "draft this information to be submitted to."

Ms. Snyder moved to accept the minutes of the September 18, 2023, meeting as amended. Ms. Podlipny seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor except Ms. LeBlanc, who abstained. The motion passed 7-0-1.

C. Treasurer's Report

Mr. Desiderio reported that for August, the electricity expense for the barn was \$20.27 and \$17.96 for the farmhouse, leaving a total in the fund of \$2,996.36.

For September, the electricity expense for the barn was \$17.17 and \$18.28 for the farmhouse. The annual insurance payment was \$602.00. This leaves a total of \$2,288.91 in the main fund. The balance in the Advisory fund is \$1,440.01.

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

48 The Committee discussed the insurance expense, which covers the use of the tractors
50 and Trust equipment. It does not cover the barn or liability on the house. Selectman
52 Landau pointed out the Trust is a separate trust; the liability for the buildings is
discussed which line the insurance cost is in.

54 **D. Cattlemen Update**

The cattlemen were not present to provide an update.

56 **E. Geary Farms Update**

58 Nick and Christy Ortins were not present to provide an update. They did send an
60 email, noting they have moved their chickens ~~and goats~~ onto the farm. The goats will
eventually come to the farm and are intended to help eradicate the bittersweet.

62 **F. Review of Fall Fest**

64 Ms. LeBlanc reported the fest went very well. There were approximately 200
attendees. There were more vendors than in the past and they want to return next
66 year. The Facebook advertising was successful, but there were suggestions that it
should have been created as an event. She thanked Ms. Rairdon and her mother for
68 their help. Mr. Myette noted the Select Board was very complimentary about the
fest.

70 The Committee noted the parking lot exit signage needs to be improved. Drivers did
72 not see the exit and attempted to leave via the entrance. They also said the schedule
should be put out earlier next year.

74 Next year's festival is tentatively scheduled for September 21, 2024.

76 **G. Site Plan Status**

78 Mr. Myette said that Mr. Biedrzycki is working on ideas for the mission and edits are
being made.

80 Ms. Snyder said Mr. Victor Chouinard has measured for the new bathroom plan. Mr.
82 Myette reported on their observations regarding installing the new bathroom.

H. Grant process

84 Chair Sautter said Mr. Biedrzycki has no updates on this.

Ms. Podlipny commented on the requirements for the community center grant. She said community input would be needed as to how the farmhouse should be utilized to qualify for this grant. Mr. Myette said the Trust has enough funds to complete the ADA-compliant grant and install the ADA-compliant bathroom.

The Committee agreed they should move forward slowly with identifying needs and the steps necessary to accomplish them. Then, seek appropriate grants.

Chair Sautter said that once the house is open and workshops/classes are being held, it will be easier to garner community support.

I. Leash Requirement for Dogs at Spring Hill Farm

Chair Sautter and Ms. Snyder will attend the next Board of Selectmen meeting to discuss establishing a leash requirement for dogs at Spring Hill Farm. The Committee discussed the wording and how the ordinance could be enforced. Selectman Landau suggested petitioning the Board of Selectmen to include hours in the AOC's budget to patrol the property.

Ms. Snyder moved to accept the proposed regulations as amended. Ms. Podlipny seconded the motion. A vote was taken. All were in favor except Mr. Myette, who abstained in his role as Selectman. The motion passed 7-0-1.

J. Chester Conservation Commission Update

Ms. Snyder asked if there is a tentative date for Winter Fest, but this has not been established. She explained that Moosewood Ecological, LLC will be hosting seasonal nature walks as part of their contracted work with the Town, and the Commission would like to coordinate the winter walk with Winter Fest. Mr. Myette recommended scheduling the Fest in mid-February.

Selectman Landau noted that he shared some of the information provided by Moosewood about Spring Hill Farm with attendees at the Fall Fest and it was enthusiastically received. Ms. Snyder added that Moosewood's enthusiasm for the work they do is obvious. She said their draft report will be ready for review by December.

III. New Business

A. Winter Festival

Chair Sautter has been contacted by Recreation Director Corinna Reishus, asking if the SHFAC is interested in participating in the Winter Fest this year. The Committee discussed this and agreed they would. A planning meeting is tentatively scheduled for October 20, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

B. Newsletter

130 The deadline for content for the next Spring Hill Farm newsletter is October 23,
132 2023.

C. Next meeting – Monday, November 20, 2023

134 **IV. Adjourn**

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

138 The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

140 Respectfully submitted,
142 Beth Hanggeli, Recording Secretary