

**Spring Hill Farm
Advisory Committee
June 18, 2018
Approved Minutes
(transcribed from PACT video)**

Attendance

Present:

Chair Kendall Kunelius
Emily Kunelius
Chuck Myette
James Piper
Cass Buckley
Maryann Boulter
Tiffany Coroka
Joe Castricone

Absent:

Colin Costine
Maria Oakley
Joe Krasowski

Members of the Public Present at Various Times:

Cindy LeBlanc

1. Call to Order – Open Meeting

Chair Kendall Kunelius called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

2. Review of Minutes - Tabled

3. Public Comment

Foodscaping Class

Mrs. LeBlanc recapped the Foodscaping Class held on June 9th from 10-12 at the Farm.

Ms. Coroka stated that she was disappointed by the low turnout after so many had private messaged her and indicated an interest on Facebook and that there was even a low turnout by the Committee members themselves, who she felt should have turned out in support of their event. Mrs. Coroka stated that Mrs. LeBlanc had put a lot of work into it and everything came out amazing. Mr. Myette suggested having it recorded and put on PACT so that everyone could enjoy the presentation. Ms. Coroka asked for some input on how to better communicate these activities. Mrs. Boulter recommended town-wide mailings and flyers. Selectman Buckley advised that communicating the

event in person or by phone is the better approach.

Gate Installation request by Rich LeBlanc

Chair Kendall Kunelius advised that she had been asked by Deb Doda to discuss the potential installation of a gate at the farm, requested by Rich LeBlanc to keep out four-wheel drive vehicles and ATVs.

Mr. Castricone advised that it would keep people from driving back there while allowing room for horses or people walking in.

Chair Kendall Kunelius added that it would not block emergency vehicles and that Mr. LeBlanc was making the request through the Committee to bring forward to the BOS.

Selectman Buckley stated that he did not see the need for the expense or of blocking the pathway in general, as nothing illegal was taking place out there, there had been no complaints, no trash, no litter and that Mr. LeBlanc was welcome to address his concerns directly with the BOS but had not yet done so, nor was he present at this meeting to make his argument. Selectman Buckley urged the group to stay on focus with farm related activities and not to get side tracked so priority items could get addressed.

Mr. Castricone used the example of hunters leaving carcasses on property to bait coyotes. There was the need to consider installing the gate since there was no one was living out there now. ATVs are never allowed.

Mr. Myette and Chair Kunelius agreed that the Committee should weigh the pros and cons of installing a gate.

Chair Kunelius summarized that the pros were that the gate would allow in what they wanted and keep out what they didn't, and the cons were that some may misinterpret the gate as a closure of the trail and it could seem aggressive and be a hassle to go out to open it, when necessary. Mr. Buckley added that the unnecessary expense was the time of the town maintenance worker. Ms. Coroka opined that the gate may be of use for future events but agreed that right now the priority was not discussing the gate.

Mr. Myette recommended making a motion and if it passed they could recommend to the BOS but if it didn't they could move on to more pressing matters.

Chairman Myette motioned to install the gate. Mr. Castricone seconded his motion. Chair Kendall Kunelius and Mr. Castricone voted in favor. Mr. Myette, Selectman Buckley, Ms. Boulter and Emily Kunelius voted against. Ms. Coroka and Mr. Piper abstained from voting. Motion failed.

Old Business

4. Farmers Market/Fall Fair - October 13, 2018 (9 am-3 pm)

Chair Kendall Kunelius advised that many NH towns host a Farmers Market and Chester is one of the few that does not. It was agreed that more research was needed to determine the best time and location. Ms. Coroka who serves as the Agriculture Committee Chair, indicated that using the barn at Wason

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Pond had been discussed recently for that purpose. Concerns were expressed about whether there would be enough traffic and visibility to host it at the Farm. Mr. Piper advised that like all things it would fall into place once they got the right vendors and people interested and signs could point the way from 102. Mr. Castricone recommended asking the Fire Dept. to borrow their LED sign.

Ms. Coroka expressed concerns about having the time to clean the Farm up, making it presentable and safe for children to be roaming about.

Selectman Buckley advised that their priority should be in finding out if there were enough vendors interested to have one.

Chair Kendall Kunelius passed around a portion of a handout which described some of the characteristics of a Farmers Market and advised that they are not just about selling vegetables. There could be speakers, crafters, artists, singers. Selectman Buckley added that another benefit would be generating interest and exposure for the high tunnel and fields that the farm has available to lease.

Mr. Castricone offered to take his camera to the Derry Farmers Market and see how they are set up. Selectman Buckley added, and ask questions, tell them what we are looking to do and see how it should begin.

Chair Kendall Kunelius advised that it would be both a good community event and fundraiser for the farm's needs. As far as scheduling, the NH Farmers Market website has a list of local markets and their schedules.

Mrs. Boulter asked Selectman Buckley what the Town was going to require from them to let them do this and if there is a list of prohibited items. Selectman Buckley advised that he would make those inquiries. Selectman Buckley requested that Chair Kendall Kunelius send him an email and he would find out about the information on liability and recreational immunity if they start taking money. Chair Kendall Kunelius advised that donations rather than fees could be recommended to potential vendors. Selectman Buckley stated that he would speak to town counsel.

Chair Kendall Kunelius departed the meeting.

Ms. Emily Kunelius advised that putting together the Farmer's Market this year, so late in the season may be difficult to get going and recommended doing a Fall Fair this year to launch the Farmer's Market next season. Ms. Emily Kunelius passed out handouts concerning her proposal.

Mr. Castricone recommended selling t-shirts, possibly with Norma the cow, who had recently passed and been a beloved fixture at the Farm for many years. Mr. Castricone suggested that the Town Fair has vendors and recommended following their model and that they could get a list of those vendors as well.

Mr. Myette recommended that Scarecrow season was in the Fall and that event brought a lot of visitor traffic. Mr. Castricone recommended reaching out to bus lines, but the Committee decided that may bring more visitors than they were ready to accommodate this year. The Committee could reach out to Chester Academy when school is back in session to see about a Jack O Lantern contest or display.

Mr. Piper stated that he knew of a local sketch artist who might be interested. Mr. Castricone said he would speak to musicians as PACT is running a late-night entertainment segment recently and even had

comedians. Mr. Piper recommended advertising in the Tri-Town.

Mr. Myette and Ms. Coroka agreed that having trail maps available and even getting the Fair on the local Scarecrow map would be useful. Mr. Castricone suggested a historical video and reaching out to get the Historical Society involved. Mr. Castricone stated that he would reach out to Jackie Brown about that and whether they could do a “Norma the Cow” scarecrow for the farm to feature which Mrs. LeBlanc suggested.

Mr. Piper asked about the table fee. It was agreed that they would charge \$10 per space. Selectman Buckley recommended set up across the street in front of the high tunnel with parking in the fields since the haying will be done by then.

The Committee agreed that the date for the event would be the 2nd week of October, on the 13th from 9am until 3 pm.

The Committee will reach out to local farmers first, in person or by phone to see who might be interested and then put together a mailer to the town that details the event and provide an email for others who may be interested in showcasing a craft or art. Mr. Castricone suggested that the vendors could hand out those flyers in their stores.

Mr. Castricone stressed the significance of having the vendor form ready to go when approaching vendors and Selectman Buckley added that continued conversations would be crucial. Selectman Buckley stated that he would get those items together for the next meeting and they could organize everything at that time.

Some ideas for souvenirs and merchandise were discussed that would have a low initial investment.

Ms. Coroka asked what the number of committed vendors should be before the flyer is released to the town. Mr. Myette suggested a handful would be enough. Ms. Coroka stated that Emily Kunelius proposal for the Fair had other activities going on and they really wouldn’t need to rely solely on vendor participation.

Ms. Coroka suggested demonstrating a cider press.

Emily Kunelius asked Selectman Buckley if the BOS would require anything of them in order to allow them to do this. Selectman Buckley stated that he would bring it up at the next meeting. Mr. Castricone asked Mr. Myette if he could bring it up to the Trustees.

Mr. Piper asked whether a police detail would be needed, if there was a specific number of people or above. Ms. Coroka recommended volunteer flaggers. Mr. Buckley will reach out to the police and fire departments for their input.

5. Clean-Up Day- July 9, 5:30-8 pm

Selectman Buckley recommended that they should have more than one clean up event. The Committee agreed to have the first, concentrating on removal of metals, lose wire and inspection of fences, on the second Monday of July and at the next meeting they would schedule a date for the second clean-up day.

6. Hay Update

Mr. Castricone asked whether there had been any progress finding someone to hay the fields. Selectman Buckley advised that they had received 3 proposals, two of which were declined and another lacked information. Mrs. Boulter asked how long they could wait and Selectman Buckley agreed that they couldn't chase people for information that wasn't provided, and it would be reviewed at the next BOS meeting.

7. Adjournment

Ms. Coroka motioned to adjourn at 8:45 pm. Mr. Myette seconded her motion, all in favor, so moved.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Hoijer,
Recording Secretary