

# **Approved Minutes-Lachat Town Farm Commission**

## **Special Meeting: June 6, 2023**

Meeting held by Zoom

Attending: Elizabeth Zeppernick, Ellen McCormick, Carol Baldwin, Katherine McConnaughey, Nicole Copans, Nick Bell, Erica Reiner  
(Guest: Anita Dinwoodie)

Motion to approve May 2, 2023 minutes, as published. Motion passed unanimously.

**Commission Chair's Departure:** Elizabeth shared with the Commission that, with a heavy heart, she is stepping down from the Commission and as its Chair on July 5, 2023. She submitted a letter to Selectwoman Nestor. All the attending Commission members shared their feelings of deep respect for Elizabeth and all she has done for the farm, as well as how she has been a mentor, an inspiration, and always so supportive. Also expressed was admiration for how Elizabeth so diplomatically navigated the Farm through both smooth and choppy seas. All expressed how much they will miss her and their best wishes for her next chapter.

Looking to the future of the Farm, Elizabeth expressed the need for more support for Anita, both paid and volunteer.

**ARPA projects:** Carol outlined the status of the four ARPA-funded projects at the Farm that will enhance public safety and preserve the health of our wetlands. (1) Wetlands Crossing – a plan has been submitted to the Conservation Commission; (2) Tractor Path – work was done by DPW that has helped the tractor erosion problem; (3) Path up hill by Goat House – Verdi has improved that but some more work may still be needed; (4) Entrance to the Upper Field – Ellen described the project: expanding the entrance to allow two cars to pass, rebuilding the stone walls, and creating some kind of gate. We will also need to incorporate the newly made entrance sign (Thank you, Nicole). Ellen

has gotten 4 bids and is working to prepare them for presentation to the Town.

**Animal Update:** Kat shared her love of the new bunny housing (cudos to Dave Gugliemo) and the 5 new bunnies that she got from Ambler Farm. She suggested a bunny naming fundraiser. Bob, the goat's horn is growing back and has snagged a couple people so Kat is looking into having it removed or remediated. There was discussion about creating a yearly budget for animal care. Kat will look into the costs and suggest a budget for approval by FOL. Also mentioned was the need to dig the fence deeper by the goats to prevent animal intruders. Ellen mentioned the compost area; Elizabeth is going to look back at the Minutes to see what was approved in terms of design and budget for the compost area. In meantime, stable sweepings should not be put by the wetlands (where they had been put previously) but rather up the hill where the Compost Area will be located.

**Offutt Center Update:** Carol mentioned her hope to plan a Grand Opening for Labor Day weekend. Furnishings have been chosen and are being ordered. Flooring is going in. Grading and re-seeding is underway.

**Other:** Members of the Commission expressed their appreciation for the work of this year's 3 high school interns and the success of this year's program.

Audience of Citizens – none

A motion was made by Elizabeth and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ellen to adjourn the meeting, passed with unanimous approval. The meeting adjourned at 8:42pm.

Our next meeting will be held WEDNESDAY, July 5, 2023 by Zoom.

Minutes humbly submitted by Carol Baldwin.

**Minutes approved 7/5/23**

