

Unapproved Minutes-Lachat Town Farm Commission

Special Meeting: July 5, 2023

Meeting held by Zoom

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

Motion made by Carol, 2nd by Kat, to approve June 5, 2023 minutes, with a correction to the date for the next meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Election of new Chair: Carol nominated Kat to be the new Chairperson of the Lachat Town Farm Commission effective July 6, 2023. The motion was 2nd by Ellen, and passed unanimously.

Commission members expressed their profound gratitude for Elizabeth's many contributions as Chair and how much she will be missed.

Commission members also noted Kat's varied service to the Farm already, as head of the Community Garden, overseer of the Farm's animal program, the quantity of time she spends on site, and her track record of dealing with difficult situations involving the Farm. Commission members offered their support to Kat as she transitions into her new role.

Elizabeth also mentioned that Vickie Kelley was stepping off the Commission and will be missed.

ARPA projects: Carol shared that in June the Conservation Commission approved the wetlands crossing designed by McChord Engineering and proposed by the Lachat Commission. Carol will next seek bids for this work. Carol mentioned that removal of invasives in wetlands must be approved by the Conservation Commission and that the Farm is required to leave an un-mowed buffer on either side of the wetlands at Lachat. Conservation also agreed with the idea of putting

an educational sign by the wetlands to explain why maintenance of the wetland is important. Stirling suggested that getting an approved blanket policy from the Conservation Commission for our wetlands invasives management work would be helpful. Ellen will pursue approval from Conservation with the assistance of Westonite Lisa Brodlie.

Compost Project Design & Cost: Ellen presented a design for a proposed composting area at the farm. It would be built in a spot away from the Wetlands as selected by Tom Failla, Weston Conservation Officer. The bins would be made from recycled wooden pallets and cedar posts. The cost of labor and supplies is \$3,600. Permission was received from The Aspetuck Land Trust. Carol made a motion, 2nd by Kat, to approve the design for the composting center and to next send a request to Friends of Lachat to cover the one-time cost. The motion passed unanimously. Some conversation continued about what maintenance costs would be associated, and a desire was expressed to teach volunteers how to manage the compost center and use our compost center as a way to teach others in our community about effective composting.

Offutt Center Update: A Labor Day weekend Grand Opening/Ribbon Cutting still seems doable. The flooring is going in; lighting, HVAC, and painting/staining are mostly complete. Much work is proceeding on planning for a donor recognition installation. Next week the kitchen will be installed.

Other Business: Kat announced a fun bunny naming contest for our new bunny residents as a fundraiser.

Audience of Citizens – none

A motion was made by Carol and 2nd by Ellen to adjourn the meeting; motion passed with unanimous approval. The meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.

Our next meeting will be held Tuesday, August 1, 2023 via zoom.

Minutes humbly submitted by Carol Baldwin.