**Approved Minutes – Lachat Town Farm Commission**

**September 5, 2023 7PM**

Meeting held by Zoom

Attending: Katherine McConnaughey (Chair), Ellen McCormick, Nicholas Bell, Nicole Copans, Sterling Collins (left meeting at 7:30pm), Anita Dinwoodie, Erica Reiner

Meeting call to order at 7:05pm and was recorded.

Motion to approve August 1, 2023 minutes by Sterling and seconded by Nick.

A person contacted Sterling for permission for a photo shoot in the old barn. Anita offered to speak with this person.

ARPA Funds Projects

New steps by the goat house completed.

Next project is the bridge over the wetlands. There are several bids in, ranging from $17K to 45K per Stirling.

One other project is the new walls in the upper field and all three bids are in for review per Ellen.

Offutt Center Update

Discussion of the successful opening events.

There is an issue with one of the bathroom plumbing lines that will be resolved and paid for by Verdi.

Tractor Update

Stirling is researching another tractor. Until it is purchased, John Eagan generously offered that the farm could borrow his tractor for any events with hayrides.

Kat conveyed that there are posts around the farm to keep the goats on property that can be removed when using the tractor and should be put back in place when done.

Discretionary Fund Limits

Each farm category (goats, bunnies, bees, etc) has a discretionary limit of $300 after which it must be submitted for approval by Friends of Lachat.

Grants

There is no one currently who oversees grant writing. Discussion to review options of hiring a grant writing professional. Nick is working on a grant that is waiting for financials from Friends of Lachat. He also mentioned that Michelle Fracasso has information about an agricultural grant. Anita requested more grants like the Fairfield County Bank grant given to bring underserved children from the greater area to the farm.

Goat House Flag Pole & Other Farm Signage

Kat suggested additional signage for various areas of the farm similar to the Giving Garden; and discussed a flag for the goat house flag pole. Erica will research both and bring the information to the October Commission meeting.

Composting Update

Ellen discussed the need for composting correctly by all the community gardeners as well as the need for more composting bins. There are more pallets available to have more bins built. Anita suggested a composting session for the community gardeners. Ellen will contact David Muller and coordinate this.

Announcements

Ellen has a price from County Appliance in Stamford for the washer and dryer. It is a large size (not commercial) for the total budgeted price of $1295 and will provide this to both Anita and Alissa for review.

There was discussion of Ellen’s request that the farm considers a policy of “no chemical food additives”.

Audience of citizens – none

A motion to adjourn the meeting made by Ellen and seconded by Nicole. The motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:02pm (?).

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 3rd at 7pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Erica Reiner