

Approved Minutes-Lachat Town Farm Commission

April 2, 2024

Meeting held in person, Lachat Town Farm

Attending: Katherine McConnaughey (Chair), Carol Baldwin, Nicholas Bell, Erica Reiner (Guests: Anita Dinwoodie, Exec. Dir., Friends of Lachat; Aidan Baker, Junior Advisory Board Member, Alissa Stoltz, FOL, speaker, Bruce Plotkin, potential LTFC member)

Meeting commenced at 7:45 pm.

Motion made by Erica, 2nd by Nick, to approve the March 5, 2024 minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Around the Farm Spotlight: Anita and Alissa discussed ideas for a potential Nature's Classroom/natural playground at the farm at the top of the tractor path at the edge of the woods. The Gaynes family suggested the idea and would fund it in memory of their son, Seth. Kat suggested including poetry somehow. Carol suggested nice landscaping with perhaps a sensory garden. An attempt will be made to enlist the help of a landscape designer pro bono.

Upcoming Events: Volunteer Day will be held on Saturday, April 6 from 10-11am. Over 30 people have signed up to learn about volunteer opportunities at the farm. Michelle Black is organizing the event.

Chairwoman's Report: (Kat) We are waiting for the Selectmen to meet to officially approve Bruce Plotkin's participation as a Commission member. Green Up Day is April 27 and we hope to have a Lachat group participating. It will be added to the Community Corner of our e-newsletter. Kiwanis helped construct wooden outdoor tables for the farm, with funds from the Gaynes family

Committee Reports:

- A) **Buildings:** (Carol) Septic and Grease trap clean-out will be scheduled for May. Trenching of a water line to the Community Garden is planned for April. The new sump pump seems to thankfully be keeping the basement dry despite the extremely heavy rains. The Verdi electrician will be coming soon to do some electrical improvements to the Offutt Center.
- B) **Grounds:** (Kat) DPW will be making improvements to the gravel parking area by the

CG on April 4. Ellen procured 4 bids for the spraying of the Hemlock to kill the fungus that it has. The least expensive company will be chosen. They will use a natural spray.

- C) **Barnyard:** (Kat) Animals are happy!
- D) **Bee-Yard:** (Erica) Three new packages of bees will be installed. There is a honey tasting program planned for June 6. Erica is working on a native bee “observatory” for the farm, which will be part of the children’s Good Earth Gardeners curriculum at the farm.
- E) **Farm Equipment:** The Egan’s tractor will be needed the 2nd week of June.
- F) **Wishlist:** (Erica) Bruce may have offered to help with it!

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm. Carol made the motion; Nick seconded; Unanimous. Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 7, 2024 at 7:30pm at Lachat Town Farm.

Minutes humbly submitted by Carol Baldwin.