

# Approved Minutes-Lachat Town Farm Commission

August 6, 2024

Meeting held in person, Lachat Town Farm

*Attending:* Katherine McConnaughey (Chair), Carol Baldwin, Nicholas Bell, Stirling Collins, Bruce Plotkin, Aidan Baker, Junior Advisor (Guest: Friends of Lachat Board members: Michelle Black, Dan Lerner, Alissa Stoltz; Pedro Reis de Oliveira)

Meeting commenced at 7:35 pm.

Motion made by Stirling, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Nick, to approve the minutes from our June 4, 2024 and July 2, 2024 meetings. Motion passed unanimously.

*Upcoming Events:* Anita is away on vacation so will report at next month's meeting.

*Chairwoman's Report:* Kat mentioned that Leila Fernandez Brier held a branding workshop and that 15 farm volunteers attended. She is preparing some recommendations. Kat expressed her appreciation of Leila's efforts.

## Committee Reports:

*Building Maintenance:* Carol reported that we are getting quotes on possible solar panels for the Offutt Center. We are also getting bids for blinds for the new building. We received the new cabinet from EFY (for free! Thank you) and Kat is working to get the freezer moved and the cabinets in place.

Aidan presented a power point to suggest a new key pad for the AV closet. The Commission approved the idea. Aidan will move forward with the plan and also reorganize our keys in general- thanks Aidan!

*Grounds Maintenance:* Kat is getting bids from contractors for estimates for a yearly grounds maintenance plan. Stirling is working with Rob Sanders on plans to create more bays for the Carriage Barn. Kat is also in conversations with Carlos about reorganizing the compost area to fit the tractor and increase its size.

*Barnyard:* Kat says all is well

*Bee yard:* Though absent tonight, Erica reported in that all is well

***Farm Equipment:*** The tractor and brush hog have been repaired by Wesco.

***Wishlist:*** Bruce is working to come up with ways to get the wish publicized. He is doing photo portraits of our active Farm volunteers and using social media to promote the wish list and volunteerism at the Farm.

***Around the Farm Spotlight*** – Pedro Reis de Oliviera presented a power point entitled: “2025 Farm Plan”. Pedro has been active running the greenhouse at the farm, creating our kitchen garden, and helping with some of the classes. His presentation proposes 3 possible projects: 1) A Prairie Garden – Native plantings that would be added to a section of the “Upper Field” above the goat pasture; the seeds could be harvested for sale 2) A Mushroom and Ramp Farm – old logs could be used to grow shitake and other mushrooms in the shady areas of the farm and ramps could also be grown in these areas for sustainable harvesting 3) A Native Fruit and Nut Orchard – a part of the lower meadow could be planted with native fruit and nut-bearing shrubs/small trees that could be harvested; these plantings could include natives like Elderberry, Hazelnuts, Paw Paws, Red Mulberry, and American Persimmon.

Pedro suggested that we could apply to a grant from the New CT Farms Alliance, which is due this fall, for these projects. The Commission expressed interest in these ideas and thanked Pedro for his in-depth and thought provoking presentation.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 3, 2024 at 7:30pm at Lachat Town Farm.

Minutes humbly submitted by Carol Baldwin.