Lachat Town Farm Commission Meeting

Minutes March 3, 2020

Weston Town Hall Annex Building

*Attending:*  Ellen McCormick (Chair), Carol Baldwin, Terry Cho, Stirling Collins, Vickie Kelly, Ed Parker, Erica Reiner, Elizabeth Zeppernick

*Absent:*  Nick Bell, Kat McConnaughey *Guest:* Anita Dinwoodie

Meeting called to order at 7:44pm

Minutes Approved from December 3, 2019, January 7, 2020, & February 4, 2020 (Stirling made motion/Terry seconded/passed unanimously)

Discussed March 3, 2020 meeting with Lachat neighbor Deb Pinals, Town Administrator Jonathan Luiz, Ellen and Carol. She expressed concerns about future upkeep of Farm, music levels, and communication. Steve Haas will be asked to keep music levels lower.

Financial Report:

Carol reported that, after sending letters to previous significant donors explaining the loss of much of our Annual Appeal mailing, many of those donors contributed.

A motion was made that any work done at the farm that will presumably cost $500 or more needs to have a written estimate that requires a vote by the Commission. Carol made the motion, seconded by Ed, passed unanimously.

Community Garden/Children’s Garden/Greenhouse:

Terry discussed involving Stefan Garbee in the composting effort.

Decided to stick with Christina Koether’s plan to build production garden on the west side of Community Garden. If emergency egress was needed to north field, new cut road near Richard’s property could be used.

Greenhouse - problems with thermostat. Lucci fixing.

Brian Gordon Memorial Garden - plans for a Native Meadow planted in fields to the east, visible from road, near old farm implement.

Buildings Committee:

Ed reported that he built the Goat House windows and will install them soon. Plan is that goats will arrive in July.

Ellen has talked to Steve Wilson about doing Barn repairs this spring to fulfill 1772 Grant.

Grounds Committee:

Stirling has finished all mowing.

Work Day played from Sunday, April 26. Elizabeth suggested Stirling create projects small groups could work on at set times.

Elizabeth mentioned apprenticeship programs Ambler Farm offers where apprentices pay to work at the Farm.

Commission agreed someone should be hired to help with lawn repairs this spring. Ellen will schedule.

Stirling said farm road to Upper Field will be finished this month.

Programming:

Anita discussed her proposal for sponsorship levels. She also mentioned the need for a new outdoor stage, temporary fencing for events, and the use of Event Brite for ticketing.

The concert proposed by Tom & Emily Todoroff will be a higher priced Music in the Meadow concert. Date to be determined. She also discussed requests by other groups to use the property. Commission liked the idea of being able to have Weston HS reunions at the Farm.

Agreed to extend the time of WestonArts May 9 “Cocktails & Canvases” event from 6-8pm to 5-9pm.

Proposed was a Check List that Anita would give to groups using Lachat that clearly spells out who is responsible for what, eg., garbage removal, sound system, electricity, extra porta johns, set up, clean up, etc.

Erica is working with Molly Mosely on improved signage for trash/recycling areas to be paid for by grant we received.

Carol will research cost of a dog waste receptacle for the farm.

Meeting adjourned at 10:10pm. (Ed made motion/Stirling seconded; unanimous)

Meeting submitted by Carol Baldwin

NEXT REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING TO BE HELD APRIL 7, 2020 at 7:30pm.