Juan Robles and Sons Landscaping, LLC

**Proposal for Lachat Town Farm Maintenance– 2/2/23**

1. Preparation for Compost area:

a. Clearing space to bare earth

b. cutting limbs on trees overhanging the area

c. reinforce the stonewall with pallets at the rear of each stall– pick up rocks, etc.

d. make sections for the compost from wooden pallets– there will be five sections

 and each will be reinforced with rebar that is left over from the construction.

e. hauling and cutting cedar logs to needed sizes (perhaps have some planed)

 We have enough cedar and can get more for nothing

f. move leaves onto bare earth and start compost. Leaves will be moved on tarps

 because they can get more on a tarp to transport than in the bucket loader of the

 tractor. Will use goat hay and droppings and bunny poop, grass from mowing

 from the lawns, cuttings from the community garden that are appropriate for

 composting (no thick stalks, etc.)

 Cost for initial project = $4300. (includes a capital investment of time and man

 power to create the compost maintenance.

 Subsequent years will be less.

I would like to start the clearing of the section for the compost right away. Now is the time to do that because there isn’t any foliage on the vines and invasive bushes that we need to remove which makes it easier to see what they are doing. It will be $1000 for the preparation of the ground and if we can have all the walls done in the lower field as well for an additional $700. because now is the time to do it. The $1000. will come out of the budgeted $4300 for the entire project. The $700 is included in another project number.

 2. Management of the compost project - turning the pile twice a month, Mar. – Nov.,

 and twice during the winter, Dec.- Feb. = 20 times a year

Total for project = $2700

When necessary, Juan will bring leaves from a house he knows is organic. The rest

 will be compost from the grass cuttings from Bobbie and Juan’s men, the

 community garden, the goats, and bunnies, etc.

 3. Mowing of the fields during the spring & summer events – Will use farm tractor and

 his own machine and gas – the first cutting takes more time.

      How many men - 3

      How many hours - 9

      What will the cost be – $285 for each event if we use Juan for this.

 Total number of events – 9 = $2,565

 This cost may go down because the first cutting is much harder and longer than

 after the grass is shorter. But not with the tractor at the speeds it can go at the

 moment.

4.  Spring Cleanup – once a year

      How many men - 6

      How many hours - 50

      Total for project = $1,750

5.  Fall Cleanup – once a year

      How many men - 6

     How many hours - 40

     Total for project = $1,400

6.  Every week cleanup including extra mowings and weed whacking around the farm

 and goat house cleanings.

 Total: $5,200.

 We may be able to get away with every other week if there aren’t any volunteers

 involved but only Juan or his designated worker bee. The volunteers make more of

 a mess than Juan. It takes longer after they have messed things up.

7.  Project –mowing the fields back to the walls in the lower field: This project needs to

 be **done now to save time and perhaps trim the price**. You can actually see

 the fallen rocks and invasive vines without the foliage.

1. Picking up rocks along the lower field walls, cutting invasives

          How many men - 5

          How many hours - 4

          Total for project – $700.

1. Mowing of the lower fields back to the walls.

 How many men – 1 on mower or tractor

 How many hours – 3 hours

Total for project - $105.

    c. Cutting down the invasives along the upper field walls? This should be more

 because it’s a three times larger area. There is also some weed whacking

 involved in this process.

          How many Men - 5

          How many hours - 50

          What will cost be - $1,750

 Total for project = $2,555

Once this project is completed there will be just mowing to keep up the work.

8. Snow plowing: Normally the snow plowing is $60.00 for the farmhouse plowing,

 sanding and shoveling. Juan always did the field for the sledders for free for which

 we owe him a few letters of donation. I think we should pay him to do any plowing

 in the field this year because it’s a difficult job since they have to back the truck

 to plow because of the new gravel. Each plowing of the field will now be $70.

 Because of the amount of territory to cover. **This will have to be determined by**

 **the number of snow falls that we have over 4 inches of snow. I have not**

 **included this in the budget for his year.**

9. Reseeding of the lawns could also be a Juan project but since Rone seems to have

 taken it on I haven’t included that either. Talk to Rone about this. I can ask Juan to

 give me a figure.

The two large projects that have added to the Total cost are 1): the moving of the compost pile that is now needed because of the Conservation Committee requesting that it be moved; 2) and the maintenance of the fields which includes the wall restoration and the picking up of rocks and elimination of invasives so that we can mow up to the walls which enables us to control the invasives.

**Total Budget for this year: $20,470.**

**Reduction in coming years: $5,000.**

**Coming years closer to: $15,470.**

Subsequent years will be less. There is still much catchup work to be done since the Town abandoned the farm. The Sustainability Committee is working with the Pollinator Pathway group to remove many of the invasives but not enough to make a real difference. It’s very slow work. It would be beneficial for our equipment if the Town came and did some more rock clearing. I will be marking the rocks soon.

Do we want to have Juan mow the entire field area at the farm this year in October or November? Stirling may still want to mow and I can help with that but Juan is reasonable enough to allow him to do that as part of his maintenance. I’d have to get a price for you. This kind of mowing requires the use of a bush hog that Juan doesn’t have which means we need a tractor and we will use our own bush hog. We will need to mow early in the spring to do the rest of the mowing and some sections will need to be mowed with the finishing mower. Once the field has been done with the bush hog we go in and do it again with the finishing mower.

If you have any questions, please call Juan at 203-820-7769, which is his cell phone.