

PARMELEE FARM COMMITTEE

Minutes

March 2, 2023

The regular meeting of the Parmelee Farm Committee was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chairman Scott Hawkins in the meeting room at town hall.

The following members were present: Scott Hawkins, Karen Milano, Guy Vecchitto, Peg Scofield, Tim Gannon, Lise Brule and Linda Dudek.

Absent: Christine Cronin, Terry Doyle and Michael Greenaway.

Visitors: Eileen Blewett and Cynthia Rich.

Cynthia Rich (Vice President and Educational Outreach Chair of the Killingworth Historical Society) gave a brief presentation of proposed educational programs utilizing the one room schoolhouse at the farm. Cynthia is coordinating with third grade teachers at KES to learn about school days in the 19th and 20th centuries. She noted that the one room schools in town were used until 1949. Students could experience “a day in life in the of children back in those early days” at the farm utilizing the farmhouse, schoolhouse and even the gardens. Cynthia said the schoolhouse would be used temporarily in the months of May for the programs and the Historical Society would place 4-6 old school desks inside. She asked permission to hang an old school blackboard inside and also an old photo of the Union District School. Tim noted that there are picture hanging strips installed in the school that can be used. Peg suggested purchasing LED battery operated lighting for the building. Karen will research options and make recommendations for lights.

Linda noted that she was not present at the February meeting as indicated in the February minutes. Tim moved to accept the minutes with that correction, seconded by Guy. Motion carried. Linda abstained.

Scott did not receive an updated financial report this month. He noted that the committee budget had been submitted and he had included several explanations with the document.

Scott updated the group on the South Field Road access. There was discussion on the location at the school end of the road. Committee members will plan a future site walk.

Peg made a motion to appoint Scott as Chair of the Farm Committee; seconded by Tim. Motion carried unanimously. Peg moved to appoint Guy as Vice Chair; seconded by Tim. Motion carried unanimously. Peg moved to appoint Chris as Secretary; seconded by Tim. Motion carried unanimously.

There was a brief discussion on gardening volunteers. Scott noted that he would like to see some additional beautification of the farm. Peg cautioned that anything new added would also need to be maintained.

Tim reported that Michele Lenz-Richards has offered to pay for six new dog signs. Scott will contact her.

Tim said the weather is finally cooperating with efforts to collect sap for maple syrup. The Sugar House will participate in the Maple Sugar Weekend on March 18 & 19.

Eileen Blewett gave an update on farm events. The farm will be utilized on Earth Day by several groups in town. The committee answered several questions that Eileen had about weddings and parties.

Peg expressed sadness about the passing of resident Mark Clifton, who had done so much for Killingworth. Mark's hard work and input was instrumental in the early planning stages of the farm. He will be missed. The committee will discuss a memorial bench in his honor at our next meeting.

Linda gave an update on the Artisan Market. There was a discussion about traffic control. Scott recommended 24 people (3 in eight locations) working 2 hour shifts to cover the parking areas.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda M Dudek, Acting Secretary