

Parmelee Farm Committee
Minutes of Meeting
Parmelee Farm
December 7, 2023

Present: Lise Brule, Christine Cronin, Terry Doyle, Linda Dudek, Tim Gannon, Mike Greenaway, Scott Hawkins, Peg Scofield and Guy Vecchitto
Absent: Karen Milano
Guests: Greg Wind

Scott called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. and welcomed the guest. The minutes from the meeting of November 2 were accepted as presented.

Scott reviewed the Treasury report, stating that there were several items that have not arrived yet and they must be added. A \$300 donation from one of the weddings, a \$600 donation from Rebecca Butler from her photo session will go as donations to the farm. And the invoice for the wagon and horses from John Allegra from Christmas at the Farm event will be paid from the Activities Account. There was discussion.

Scott reviewed notes that Eileen Blewett and Karen Milano had sent him regarding Christmas at the Farm. All in all, it was a very successful event and Dale Wilcox was a wonderful Santa. Other Committee members discussed their various duties during the event and overall felt the event was well worth it and all agreed to continue the tradition with hopes that town organizations and groups will continue to help with its success. Committee Member Karen Milano posted on the Parmelee Farm FB page as well as other local social media pages, a thank you post to all the groups and organizations that provided activities, food and beverages as well as personnel to help with CATF. Besides Santa, the popular attraction for the event were the horse and carriage rides. Like the line to see Santa, the line for a scenic ride around the farm was nonstop and popular. Linda said that there were several people who visited the Farmhouse and were very interested in finding out more about the Farm. She also stated that the KHS Christmas Fair was a success. Overall feedback was positive, and the committee is planning for next year. There were suggestions from Eileen's Notes as well as input from Greg Wind that will be applied for next year. There was discussion. One impact from the event was the rutting of the grounds from the horse and carriage rides due to grounds being wet. This was quickly fixed with help from Mike Milano Sr. donating equipment and time to roll out the ruts so the grounds will be ready for spring.

Mike suggested a mailing to the community from the Farm. Scott said then he was already working on a year wrap up which will be published. There was discussion. Greg suggested that a QR code should be added to the kiosk with a notice that people could volunteer for various tasks around the Farm

Eileen had also inquired if the Committee wanted to take on larger events. There was a lengthy discussion. The number will stay as is for the time being.

Mike spoke of the possibility of a dog park. It was discussed that this topic has been previously investigated and the Committee had decided against it for a number of reasons. It was also discussed that the committee is open to discuss any uses of the property offered by residents and organizations as long as it works within the guidelines of the properties use as a passive recreational space and town regulations.

There was discussion of needing some new volunteers for the mowing team and other volunteer jobs around the Farm. Scott said that once again the Committee will give the volunteer mowers a \$15 gift card for Dunkin' Donuts. There was discussion about getting jackets or fleeces for the mowers. This will be investigated. Scott stated that he is planning to meet with the First Selectman as well as other town offices to discuss future needs for the farm in regards to operations as well as volunteer work.

Scott reviewed the list of planned projects that have been held over for 2024. They include the South Field access road, more lighting for the paths, sides for the pavilion, and a plug-in audio system for the Pavilion.

Scott talked about the accident that occurred on the trails recently. He said that the map system set up with help from Killingworth Land Trust, training session by KVFD over the summer, made it efficient for KVFD to locate the injured woman quickly and render aid. This was the first accident on the trails that required a rescue call. There was discussion.

Scott will get out the schedule for next year keeping the meeting on the first Thursday of the month. The meetings of January, February and March will be held at Town Hall. All the rest will be at the Farm.

Meeting adjourned 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Cronin
Secretary