

Parmelee Farm Committee
Minutes of Meeting
Town Hall
March 7, 2024

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

Scott called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. and welcomed the guest. The minutes were accepted as presented. He reported that the Activity Account has a balance of \$64030. Scott said that he has done a report for 2023 and submitted it to the BOS and he will send copies to all PFC members.

Tim said that there was a lot of interest in the Sugar House this year and lots of community members volunteered to help. A group of children from New Haven came on a school trip to see how maple syrup is made as well as other school groups. The Sugar House has provided a great educational experience for many local children. There was discussion.

Eileen said there have been 3 additional inquiries for wedding dates. The committee approved to add these dates above the 4 already scheduled. The Lions Easter Egg Hunt will be held on March 30. There are a number of family parties scheduled, as well as events by Youth and Family Services, Teachers retirement parties, etc. there was lengthy discussion. Eileen is researching new furniture for the pond room to replace what is there and has an approved budget by the committee. She will report back to the Committee. She reported that the new website being run by the Killingworth Women's Organization — All Things Killingworth — is looking for more town info. Karen will send them something on the Farm. Eileen will get the calendar of events at the Farm to them. There was discussion.

Tim reported that with the help of a Sugar House Volunteer and IT Specialist, the Farm's security system is now repaired and up and running. Some equipment still needs to be updated as the system is 10 years old. The underground wire that runs to the Pavilion was no longer functioning and has been replaced with a transmitter that works above ground. As a result of this repair, coverage for the area has improved. Also discussed was the need for additional security cameras for better coverage to the front of the property. The volunteer has documented all the changes and will submit to the committee these documents for future reference. There was discussion.

Linda reported that the farm house has some serious leaks and KHS is waiting for the Town to designate a contractor. Because of this there will be no open house this season until the repairs have been completed. They are working on getting their farming implements hung in the barn for display.

There was lengthy discussion concerning this year's Christmas at the Farm. It was a very popular family event. It will be an agenda item for the remainder of the year. A budget will be put together. A working group of committee and non-committee member will work on planning for this year's event.

Tim has not heard back from the Chamber as to whether they will sponsor any of the 4 concerts this summer. If, and when, Tim hears from the Chamber, the committee will discuss if the concerts continue and where the funding will come from. Last year, two concerts were paid from the Activities Account. Should the committee decide to fund all four concerts, estimated cost would be around \$2,000.00. Scott will work on preliminary budgets and expenses for all free events held at the Farm (i.e. Christmas at the Farm, Pumpkin Carving, Artisan Market, Concerts).

Tim also mentioned that this weekend is Maple Sugaring weekend and they will be giving tours at the Sugar House.

Meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Cronin
Secretary