

PARMELEE FARM COMMITTEE

Minutes

August 6, 2026

The regular meeting of the Parmelee Farm Committee was called to order by Chairman Richard Pleines at 7:00pm in the Pond Room at the farm.

The following members were present: Richard Pleines, Eileen Blewett, Tim Gannon, Peg Scofield, and Linda Dudek. Absent: Christine Cronin, Brian Dombrowski, Karen Milano, Mike Greenaway, and Terry Doyle.

Guest: Bill Joyce.

The committee welcomed Mr. Joyce. He complimented the farm committee on the farm and the trails. He asked several questions pertaining to the town funding, events, and finances. Committee members explained our budget, how funds have been raised, and new budget procedures the town is now implementing. The committee told Mr. Joyce that members of Beechwood Community are welcome to attend our meetings and that we would send a representative from our committee to their meetings, if requested, to address questions about the farm.

Minutes from the July meeting were accepted as presented. Financial reports were briefly discussed.

There was a lengthy discussion on future events that might be held at the farm. Peg made a motion to allow bookings of private, non-wedding events, associated with Killingworth and Haddam residents. Seconded by Tim. Yea: Peg, Tim, Eileen, Ken, Linda. Nay: Richard. Motion carried.

There was a brief discussion on the Coast Guard concert which was enjoyable and well attended. It was noted that more volunteers would be helpful. The committee will follow up with Greg Wind to see if he has any suggestions to assist him in making the popular event run smoothly.

Linda gave an update on the Artisan Market. Many new vendors will be participating this year with a variety of added items. A bus from RD17 will provide transportation from HKIMS and the farm again. Volunteers are needed.

The Motown Concert held in July was discussed. Committee members expressed concern about the large crowds of people attending and parking issues. Members suggested a larger venue might be more appropriate for this event.

The kiosk needs minor repairs and cleaning. Karen has contacted the Scouts who built the kiosk and they will refurbish it.

Eileen reported she had cleaned the bathrooms which had mildew due to the humid weather. Eileen will purchase some Damp Rid to help absorb some of the excess moisture. Linda will clean the bathrooms again before the market.

Ken noted that the painted trim on the east end of the schoolhouse is peeling. He said that the schoolhouse has evidence that mice have been inside and it will need thorough cleaning before the second graders attend the October 15th educational day at the farm. ProfExt have been successful in keeping most of the mice problems in other farm buildings under control. We will investigate more options for mouse control in the schoolhouse.

Eileen received a request from a student looking for community service hours. Eileen will send the contact information to Mary and Linda.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda M. Dudek, Acting Secretary