

PARMELEE FARM COMMITTEE

Minutes

June 1, 2017

The regular meeting of the Parmelee Farm Committee was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Chairman Tim Gannon in the Pond Room at the Parmelee Farm. The following members were present: Tim Gannon, Guy Vecchito, Peg Scofield, Bruce Dodson, Linda Dudek and Scott Hawkins (7:15p.m.) Absent: Christine Cronin. Guests: Eagle Scout Nate Carlson and his father and Michael Greenaway.

Nate Carlson gave a visual presentation on his proposed Eagle Scout project which would be a bird blind (for bird watching). The blind would be approximately 7'-8' tall and consist of 3 angled wooden panels. Each panel would be approximately 8' wide. Nate explained that small holes in the panels would allow for watching the birds. A raised platform feeder for seeds would attract birds to the area. Committee members made several suggestions to Nate including putting up a sign to direct people to the blind; locating it near the edge of the south field near the Middle School, which might be a quiet area; one or two camera size holes; and a sign to encourage bird watchers to bring birdseed. Nate will create a path around the blind and add mulch around the area. He plans to begin the project this summer and complete it by fall. Tim suggested he check the farm calendar so that he would not be constructing the blind while activities were being held. Terry suggested using the oak boards that were salvaged from the schoolhouse to build the blind.

The minutes from the May 8th regular meeting were accepted as presented. The minutes from the May 13th Special meeting were accepted as presented.

Peg distributed the farm event list. Volunteers for upcoming events: June 3 – Scott will arrive at 4:30, Tim will do close; June 15 – Guy will open Pond Room and rest rooms; June 19th – only restroom needs to be opened; June 30th – Guy will open and close. The wedding on June 10th will require parking attendants – Scott will organize. Peg also noted that horses will be on the premises for that wedding.

Bruce reported that the site walk required for the Pine Orchard Schoolhouse RFP took place today. Five builders, Administrative assistant Elizabeth Disbrow and Bruce were present at the walk through. There was a brief discussion on the exterior color of the schoolhouse. It was decided that white would be appropriate. It was noted that any questions by builders should be directed to the First Selectman's Office.

There was no update on the Eagle Scout bridge project.

Linda said there are eight new vendors for the farm market and a good selection of merchandise. One fiber artist will bring her spinning wheel to demonstrate her craft. Bruce will not be available for the bubble station area for the June market.

Middle school students came to the farm several times and raked stone and picked up sticks from the lawn. They will return this fall to help with leaf removal. Guy oversees the students when they are on the property.

Tim explained that John Byrne's backhoe (delivered by Fred Dudek) is at the farm. It was used to dig the hydrant at the front of the pavilion, which was not working. Jack Schuster repaired the hydrant and the dirt and sod have been replaced. John also used the backhoe to remove surface stones to facilitate future mowing in the area near the schoolhouse and the plan is to scrape away bittersweet vines and vegetation and then keep that area mowed to retard the overgrowth.

Tim gave an update on adding power to the back field. Shore Electric, a new member in the Chamber, has submitted a quote of \$3,300 for a 100 amp service that would have four separate quads for a total of 16 outlets. The service would be mounted on pressure treated wood and would have a weatherproof box that would have a lock. Terry made a motion to authorize Tim to spend an amount not to exceed \$3,500 for the electric project; seconded by Peg. Motion carried unanimously.

Tim explained the status of renting the temporary stage from the Town of Clinton for the town picnic. The rental would cost \$350. Clinton has stipulated that the stage be towed over paved or stone surface and remain on the same surface. Tim has requested Clinton visit our farm to see if they will approve our site. If renting this is not feasible, Tim noted that John Byrne may build something suitable to use as a stage.

Tim stated that while the backhoe was still on the property, the stone bench will be installed near the pond.

Tim declared the meeting adjourned at 8:06 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda M. Dudek, Acting Secretary