

Parmelee Farm Committee

Minutes of Meeting

Town Hall

December 6, 2018

Present: Christine Cronin, Bruce Dodson, Linda Dudek, Terry Doyle, Tim Gannon, Peg Scofield and Guy Vecchitto

Absent: Scott Hawkens

Guest: Mary Solara and Bob Lavezzoli

Tim called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. And welcomed the guests.

The minutes for the meetings of November 5 and 12 were accepted as presented.

Mary Solera reported to the Committee on the progress of the Shared Harvest Garden. The garden has now completed its fifth year. There are 19 plots and a dedicated group of volunteers. During the summer season, they have a weekly market where food is given to members of the community. Any produce left on market day is given to the local food pantries. There was a lengthy discussion of purchasing seeds and plants. Mary is going to contact Shoreline Gardens to see if they are willing to work with her in acquiring plants for next year. Mary stated that the garden needs a new fence...critters are getting in and eating their produce. She said they also need to set up a composting operation. There was lengthy discussion. She also said that Sue Dineen's nephew, who is a bee keeper is interested in bringing 4 hives and using the Farm's 2 hives reestablishing bee keeping on the property. There was discussion. All felt that this would be a positive for the Farm.

Mary stated that she feels very strongly that the Community Garden should continue. She has contacted the Agricultural Extension to see if they can find a Master Gardener interested in running The Community Garden. She has not heard back yet.

Tim reported that John Byrne had come up with the pricing for the replacement of the Shared Harvest fencing. For the corner posts, posts, fence, gate and cement the cost would be \$2160. This figure may not include the very small mesh that will need to be dug into the ground.

Tim reported that an additional \$350 of leaves were sold last Saturday at the new sugar house. He hopes that the sugaring will begin in late January.

Linda said she had no information on the proposed Historical Society Carriage House. She will report when she gets the information.

Tim reported that he had spoken to roofing contractor to get an idea of the cost of replacing the roof of the Pavilion. To replace with the same roof would be about \$54,000 and to replace with a standing seam roof would be about \$61,00. He will include in the RFP that all bidders would have to inspect the roof before bidding. There was lengthy discussion as to whether the roof could be repaired.

There was then a discussion of the Master Plan. Linda Dudek stated that now that the School House is completed there needs to be a programs developed for its use. She also felt that rebuilding the Lodgings was not feasible due to placement of the underground gas tank and the path configuration. Peg said that there should be more trail lights going over to the school house and possibly bring power to the Schoolhouse. She also thought it was time to rebuild the stonewall in the field north of the pavilion and put a traditional gate to the dooryard. There was discussion of expanding the parking area and possibly building a new barn in stages. Terry Doyle felt we need to pursue using pavers to improve the walkway on the side of the pavilion outside the Pond Room and a small patio at the side of the Pavilion for concerts. Guy said maybe we could buy an old barn and have it moved to the Farm. Bruce stated that we thought that we were nearing completion of implementing the Master Plan. Chris said that she agreed with Bruce and some improvements on what we already have would be the way to go.

Linda said that all of the fire extinguishers at the Farm need to be serviced, as they are outdated.

Tim said the Committee should be thinking of Eagle Scout projects and perhaps the composting station in the Shared Harvest Garden would be one.

Tim said that now the property is almost complete, Committee members should be thinking about programs that can be held at the Farm. There was discussion.

Tim then went over some of the budget line items for upcoming projects and projects that have been revised, e.g., stage. There was discussion.

Bruce Dodson moved to approve and amount up to \$3,000 for the replacement of the Shared Garden fence, seconded by Linda Dudek. Unanimously passed.

Chris will prepare a draft of the Amended Addendum to the Master Plan which will be distributed with the minutes.

Meeting Adjourned 9:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Cronin