

Parmelee Farm Committee
Minutes of Meeting
Town Hall
Thursday January 2, 2020

Present: Christine Cronin, Linda Dudek, Tim Gannon, Scott Hawkins, Peg Scofield and Guy Vecchitto

Absent: Bruce Dodson and Terry Doyle

Tim opened the meeting at 7:14 p.m.

The minutes from the meeting of December 5 were accepted with one correction. In paragraph 5 the word "humidifier" should be "dehumidifier".

Peg discussed the events calendar. There have been a number of inquires for weddings in the Pavilion. Several have been booked. Tim suggested that Peg update the schedule to reflect all of the annual events for this year - concerts, pumpkin carving, Historical Society Tag sale, maple sugaring, etc. There was discussion.

Tim stated that now that all of the research has been completed with respect to a replacement red barn. The project will be looked at a later time.

Tim turned the discussion to the capital & operations budgets for this coming year. The items that need to be added are a warm water mixing valve for the restrooms to cut down on dampness and condensation during hot weather events. He has spoken to Jack Schuster, who said that the cost will be about \$500 for its installation. The next item is the stone wall repair in the field north of the pavilion. He will get a price for that. Painting of the Stone Barn and parts of the Pavilion will be around \$5,000. The last item is the purchase of a 4x4 utility vehicle (Gator)... Tim has been doing research and a new John Deere with 2 seats will cost \$12,100. It was also discussed about the need for a tractor to use for various projects and maintenance around the Farm. There was lengthy discussion. Peg mentioned that a vehicle like the Gator would also be helpful in maintaining the trails at the Farm.

Scott Hawkins said that he has been doing some research into the possibility of adding a type of lightweight sliding panels to the Pavilion. This upgrade might lead to more usage of the building. There was lengthy discussion of how this might work. Scott will look into this further and report back to the committee.

Tim reviewed the Sugar House budget for this year. He also said that the program in December had 20 participants and more people have signed up to help with the sugaring. Additional tubing has been installed to include more trees for sap collection. It should be a good year for production. There was discussion. Linda Dudek made a motion to approve up to \$2500 from the activity fund to be allocated to the Sugar House to purchase materials for this sugaring season - these include processing materials, purchase of a sap pump, membership the Maple Syrup Producers Association of CT and advertising in their CT Sugar House brochure. It was seconded by Peg Scofield, and it unanimously passed.

The slate of officers for the year 2020 was nominated - Tim Gannon Chairman, Peg Scofield Vice Chairman and Christine Cronin Secretary. They were unanimously elected.

Tim said that he had filed an application with the CT Farm Bureau and Parmelee Farm is now a member. This might qualify the Farm to apply for some of their Ag grants, if we qualify as well as other educational farm related programs & workshops they offer.

Linda said that if anyone has maple sugar recipes she will collect them for a cookbook.

There was a general discussion of the parking at the various events.

Meeting adjourned at 9:07 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Cronin

Secretary