

Bolton Heritage Farm Commission
Regular Meeting
July 1, 2013

Minutes

The Bolton Heritage Farm Commission held its regular meeting on Monday, June 3, 2013 at the Notch Road Municipal Center. Members in attendance were Chairman Sandra Pierog, Vice Chairman Arlene Fiano, Ann Maulucci, Donna Phillips and Beth Harney. Also in attendance were Buildings and Grounds Supervisor John Butrymovich and Adam Maikshilo from USDA. Bolton residents in attendance were Hans Depold and Richard Treat.

1. Call to Order

Chairman Sandra Pierog called the meeting to order at 7:04 P.M.

2. USDA representative re WHIP grant

Adam Maikshilo from the USDA/ National resources, conversation services spoke at the meeting about the progress on the WHIP grant at the Heritage Farm. Adam was pleased with the improvement of the farm from the work completed. . He also spoke about the importance of mowing regularly and trying to keep the invasive plant life under control. Adam spoke of key areas that need improvement which were the stone walls, tree bases and inaccessible mowing areas. He suggested spot treating 2-3 times on these key areas with herbicides. Adam also discussed the Boy Scout's planting project and was pleased with the plant selection. He indicated the plants need to be covered to inhibit deer browse, and reminded us, if the plants die they need to be replaced.

3. Public Comment

Hans Depold spoke about the event his is planning that will be honoring our state representative Pam Sawyer. This event will be held on September 27, 2013 at Bolton High School in the student commons area. Students from the National Honor Society and the History Club will discuss the documentation of the first historical trail. This will be the opening event for Heritage Farm weekend.

4. Approval of minutes of May 6, 2013

A motion was made by Beth Harney, seconded by Ann Maulucci to approve the June 3, 2013 minutes as presented. A motion was made by Arlene Fiano and seconded by Beth Harney to accept the minutes with the following changes. Motion passed unanimously.

Corrections to June 3, 2013 minutes

Section 3 add "grants we applied for" after the word matching
Page 2 under section 7e change "Selectmen S" to "Selectmen's"

5. Unfinished Business

a. Farm Maintenance and repair projects

John Butrymovich stated the cross country track had been mowed. Due to inclement weather no other work has been completed. Sandra reported that someone broke their ankle at the first race on Wednesday. Race organizers at the Heritage Farm raised concerns about the parked farm equipment impeding the flow of starting and stopping the race. Arlene Fiano stated it should not be kept in public areas but kept on leased areas. John Butrymovich said he would ask Leonard Giglio to park equipment away from the "runway" area and would email Arlene or Sandra.

b. Whip Grant planting schedule/Eagle Scout Projects

Arlene Fiano and John Butrymovich discussed placing the stakes in the ground for the Eagle Scouts Planting project on Tuesday June 9, 2013 at 8:30 am at the farm with the Scouts.

c. Farm display at Bentley Library

Ann Maulucci stated the display at the library was receiving good responses and the jar for guesses was filling up. The cabinet is not reserved for July or August, Ann Maulucci and Arlene Fiano suggested promoting the farmers market by putting up pictures of last year's event. Ann will contact the library and arrange the updates to the display. Rosie the cow will be at the library for the next couple of months.

d. Update on Heritage Farm Fund

e. John Butrymovich provided a report with balances of the Heritage Farm Fund and the remainder of the bonded funds for the farm. The Heritage Farm Fund balance as of June 12, 2013 was \$4,533.61 and the remainder of the bonded funds is \$6,790.93. John reported any remaining funds from previous barn grants are not included in these balances, but in separate grant accounts. . . Sandra requested (if possible) a detailed analysis of account balances, which John will request from the finance department. . **Heritage Farm Celebration 2013**

Arlene Fiano reported that star gazing will be on August 21st and that cross-country races are occurring every Wednesday at the farm. She also stated she had met with Todd Levine of DECD, who is WR3 coordinator for opening day celebrations are coming along nicely. Todd will provide us the list of protocol and invitations to be sent out. Arlene also mentioned the State and town should send formal invitations to the Dragoons. She also indicated Todd will be handling publicity for the event. Sandra asked if the Selectmen's office had returned the request for funding to Todd by July 1st. A copy of the signed form was provided by Donna Phillips. Arlene also stated the Selectmen's facility sub-committee will discuss Heritage Weekend on Tuesday July 9th at 7pm, at town hall. At the previous meeting the town had concerns with attendance levels. Based on Arlene's discussions with the Dragoons, prior events have had 200 attendees total, with about 50 present at a time. Sandra stated the town provided information on insurance available through a CIRMA sponsored TULIP (Tenant Users Liability Insurance Program and she will look into this before next meeting.

f. CT Barns Grant 2013 status-Milk shed demolition work

The Bolton Heritage Farm has been awarded a 2013 barn grant for \$4,000 dollars from the CT Trust for Historic Preservation. Sandra got confirmation by voicemail, the written document and award will be sent to the Selectmen's office.

g. **Vibrant Communities Grant-update on participation**

The status of the draft grant report was discussed. Beth Harney stated that one of the consultants had indicated that they were using a target delivery date of the end of July. Arlene Fiano asked if Selectmen were going to invite the stakeholders to review the proposal before they accept the final report. Richard Treat stated he had sent email to Selectmen and urged other members to do the same to request allowing stakeholders to review the grant report before final acceptance.

h. **Update on Fund Raising**

Ann Maulucci collected donations from town hall. She was concerned that there were only five bottles. Richard treat suggested checking with Pat Morianos regarding any funds she may have recently deposited.

i. **Policy for use on the farm by organized groups**

Beth Harney started there was nothing at this time.

j. **Other**

Nothing at this time.

6. New Business

a. **Election of officers for 2013-2014**

A motion was made by Beth Harney and seconded by Arlene Fiano to reelect Sandra Pierog as Chairman. A motion was made by Beth Harney seconded by Donna Phillips to reelect Arlene Fiano as Vice Chairman. A motion was made by Donna Phillips and seconded by Arlene Fiano to elect Beth Harney as secretary. All were voted for separately and passed unanimously.

b. **Discussion of future repairs, grant opportunities**

Sandra discussed potential rental of the Farm house. A rough estimate of amount of repairs and renovations needed were provided by the architect working on the VCI consultant panel. Sandra also stated she had looked at some the potential grants for funding and most would require matching funds. She only found one grant allowing in-kind services to count as the town match. Richard Treat discussed his visit to the property with a potential renter. The potential renter is interested in contributing labor for repair (with the town providing materials) in return for some agreed upon lease period. The commission discussed concerns that would need to be addressed prior to a lease, including funding and agreed to continue the discussion at the next meeting. The receipt of the VCI grant report was discussed as a needed step for moving forward.

Donna Phillips also suggested that Sandi Hastings be invited to come to the next meeting and discuss fundraising options. The commission reached a consensus to wait for the VCI grant report before moving forward.

c. Other

Richard Treat discussed the recent field trips at the farm and the commission reviewed the July Bolton Land Trust musings. The Bolton Center school 5th graders had a wonderful time and learned many things visiting the farm. He learned that 60 percent have never been to the Heritage Farm. He discussed other ways to get all grades involved in the farm.

Donna Phillips asked if funds were available for signs to promote the farmers market. Sandra stated she would discuss at the next Selectmen's sub-committee meeting and John Butrymovich will look for the old signs. The sandwich board signs from the prior year are being stored. .

Donna Phillips also asked if additional board members could be added. Sandra stated it was discussed with the Board of Selectmen. The selectmen were not receptive to increasing the number of members, as they had put careful consideration into the number of board members when establishing the commission.

7. Adjournment

A motion was made by Arlene Fiano, seconded by Beth Harney to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 9:18 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Corrine O'Brien
Board Clerk

PLEASE SEE THE MINUTES OF SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS FOR THE APPROVAL OF THESE MINUTES AND ANY CORRECTIONS HERETO.