

Raynes Farm Stewardship Committee
Meeting of April 17, 2019

DRAFT Minutes

Members present: Sally Ward, Bill Campbell, Don Briselden, Nick Campion
Staff present: Kristen Murphy

Sally Ward called the meeting to order at 8:00.

Minutes of the meeting of January 29 were approved as amended to add Don Briselden to the list of attendees.

Kristen gave an overview of the dashboard she has developed and explained how to access it through the Conservation Commission link. Sally asked for any suggestions for changes and/or additions and asked that any ideas that come up in between meetings be shared with her and Kristen. It was suggested to add the following financial items to the dashboard: Establishment of the "Friends of" group; LCHIP grant application, and CIP submission. Don suggested that the events that have been completed be listed on a separate sheet of the dashboard. Kristen will look into how this might work. We also discussed adding events from the past to the completed events list so we have ready access to all of the activities and events at the Barn. This will help document the use of the property and will be an asset for the next LCHIP application.

The Ben Anderson's Easter event had to be cancelled due to low registration. There was a discussion of why the registration was low, given that other events Ben has organized have had good turnouts. One possible explanation is the fee associated with the event. There was general consensus that it would be wise to have more "free" events until the community is more fully aware of the barn and there is more recognition that we have a "Conservation Center" at the property. We also discussed the process for sign-ups for events and the issue of communicating Raynes activities. We will work more on communications and connect with the town committee working on communications.

The next event is the Woodcock Walk on Monday April 22 at 7 PM, to be led by David O'Hearn.

The bat presentation and bat house construction event is scheduled for May 4. Registration is low so far but we will go ahead with the event regardless.

There was discussion of the disc golf event held last fall and whether to pursue this for the current year. The consensus is that there is interest in having this event again but not this year. We will let Greg Bisson know that we would be interested in having the event in the future but not this year. Nick suggested that Parks and Recreation hold a mini-disc golf event that can be held at different venues in Town, including Raynes. He will connect with Greg about the idea.

Sally summarized the meeting she and Ginny had with the principal and teacher at Lincoln Street School. The LSS folks were very interested in having a Raynes event be incorporated in the NH

history curriculum taught in the 4th grade. Sally asked for ideas about what this might entail, given that it is not possible at this time to have a field trip to the barn. Bill stated that Bob Glowacky at Exeter TV had produced a video about the Raynes barn and that we should connect with him about incorporating this in the plan for the presentation. Bill wants to be in the loop for further discussions of this. Ginny and Sally will be discussing details of the presentation. This would take place in the next school year (2019-20).

Property management updates were discussed. The pallets have been removed by Josh from the disc golf event. An Eagle Scout is very interested in building a bridge to link the front and back portions of the property on the far side of the field (near the grave site). This proposal needs to be approved by the Conservation Commission and the Eagle Scout leaders.

Sally will be meeting with Jordan Dickerson (Stout Oak Farm and Select Board candidate) to explore ideas for sustainable agriculture at the property. Jordan and Dave Short have already had some preliminary discussions of this, and both are very interested in the idea. This would be an opportunity to expand the agricultural uses beyond the haying operation. Kristen suggested the Commission could consider small uses that do not interfere with the existing agreement such as leasing space for bee keeping or reconsider allowing the tapping of maple trees.

Bill will check again with DPW on the work on the muddy area next to the parking lot.

Yeti Landscaping has indicated an interest in becoming more involved in work around town. We discussed having them look at the grave site area at Raynes for possible clean up and maintenance. Sally and Kristen will follow up.

We discussed the potential of installing a Conservation Center at Raynes Farm sign on the back side of the kiosk at the parking lot. The committee preferred to establish the concept before moving forward on the sign. Don summarized the center represents the general idea of the “conservation ethic” at Raynes Farm (conserved habitat, historic preservation, active agriculture, etc., and the growing umbrella of a Conservation Center at Raynes Barn. To help grow this concept we will hold the next Stewardship meeting at the Barn (but will need to do some cleaning to make that happen).

The next meeting will be in June or July.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10.