

Raynes Farm Stewardship Committee
Meeting of July 30, 2019

DRAFT Minutes

Members present: Sally Ward, Bill Campbell, Nick Campion, Ginny Raub, Kathy Norton
Staff present: Kristen Murphy

Sally Ward called the meeting to order at 8:30

Minutes of the meeting of April 17 were approved as presented.

Sally presented an overview of the bat education and bat house workshop, and the window restoration workshops. The group discussed options to address the parking challenges that are created either from wet weather or from high grass in the field during the growing season. Bill suggested a meeting with Jeff Beck to determine what DPW can assist with and what we need to budget for. Sally and Kristen expressed interest in attending the meeting.

The group discussed the railroad inholding. Kristen learned that the abutter to the north was able to purchase some property from the railroad. The group suggested it would be beneficial to reach out to the railroad again.

Sally asked Kristen to send a copy of the LCHIP grant application to the group to review before the next meeting in preparation for next year's submission.

Sally discussed the upcoming events at the property including a kite flying event, a story walk and skywatch. Nick suggested the kite flying event be combined with an open barn event. Kristen shared that the Davis' had the soil tested and have plans to add ash to the fields to improve pH levels. Ginny expressed concerns about whether the Eversource pole replacement will impact the skywatch and story walk events. Kristen will send out the Eversource plans so the group could determine a plan should these events occur while pole replacement is ongoing. Several expressed a desire to reach out to Eversource and inquire if there is extra soil available, whether it could be used to smooth out the barn access road.

There was a discussion about the variety of items being stored in the barn. It was suggested there be a volunteer barn cleanup day in the fall when its cooler where we organize the stored items, lay the large boards flat on the south east bay and create a better display of the historic items in the barn with interpretive signs. Sally also wanted the unsafe areas to be blocked off. Ginny suggested reaching out to Anne Schieber and Peter Smith for help developing explanations for the items.

Sally indicated she would reach out to Keith Whitehouse of Yeti Landscaping to take a look at the gravesite and get thoughts for how to improve the area and reduce weed growth.

The next meeting will be in June or July.
Meeting adjourned at 9:45.