

Raynes Farm Stewardship Committee
Meeting of November 26, 2019
Draft Minutes

Members present: Sally Ward, Bill Campbell, Ben Anderson, Ginny Raub, Don Briselden
Staff present: Kristen Murphy

Sally Ward called the meeting to order at 8:15 am.

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of the meeting of 7/30 were approved with an edit to change next meeting date to November. Ben inquired about the mention of the railroad inholding discussion. Following brief overview Sally indicated we need to follow-up with the RR Company with the goal to understand what the process for acquisition would be.

Event Planning:

Sky Watch: Sally informed the committee that we had to cancel the October Skywatch program due to weather but there were 16 registrants. Ginny will follow up with the NH Astronomical Society and arrange for two dates on back to back weeks in February 2020.

Winter Solstice-Festival of Lights: Sally is interested in holding a solstice themed event on December 21st from 4-6. It would include a lantern walk from the parking lot to the barn, cocoa, and a bonfire. Additional suggestion included inviting a choral group. Ginny would reach out to PEA. Bill suggested contacting the Thurber family who play stringed instruments. Sally would send out a call for volunteers to help with the event. We need to plan for a press release in advance and should reach out to Exeter TV to see if they could film the event.

Barn Care/Maintenance:

Ginny is interested in hanging a wreath, centered on the doors for the winter. The committee was supportive. Ben offered to hang it. Kristen mentioned there is a ladder inside the barn.

Bill will talk with Jeff Beck about the solar or electric lights on the field entrance of the barn to inform budget needs. Kristen suggested in addition to cost for purchase it will need to include electricity costs. Sally suggested motion detection lights don't use much. Kristen expressed a concern that they can be triggered by wind, constantly going on/off. Bill will also find out DPWs continued ability/timing to install the upper gravel parking area and whether they will be able to keep the access road to the new gravel area mowed or not.

Sally is planning for a spring clean-up/organization of the barn late April/early May. We will lay the old doors on the floors in the southwestern bay and display the historic items in that area. Bill obtained a description of the historic items from Peter Smith. Kristen has done some research on the items in an effort to develop interpretive signs. Bill and Sally volunteered to help.

Don suggested we plan to review the list of repairs/needs and work toward obtaining an update to estimates in preparation for the LCHIP grant application. Sally will schedule a meeting to review the current list of recommendations/estimates in late winter.

Other Business:

Sally and Ginny are working on an education program with 4th graders for the fall and spring 2020 in collaboration with Cindy Palmer a social studies educator at Lincoln Street. Kids cover NH history in two sessions-one in the fall and one in the spring. Each session has about 90 kids. Though the program is centered more in the classroom, Ginny suggested that home school groups may be able to visit the barn. She will look into a way to connect with these groups. Bill suggested NH Home School Field Trips website. Don suggested setting a weekend date for an age-focused educational event at the barn that students can be invited to. Kristen suggested Exeter TV may be able to help prepare a video that can be brought into the schools.

Ben said Word Barn is interested in hosting an event in the spring or summer at Raynes. His vision for the event is musicians playing at the entrance to the barn with the audience outside the barn on the hill but is not sure on what specific date. The committee thought it was well suited for the site and suggested he submit an event application for the upcoming conservation commission meeting with the date to-be-determined. This will allow for flexibility needs to solicit a band as well as timing the event around haying. It was thought late July/early August may be best. Kristen said she will add reasons past events were cancelled to our growing list of Raynes events so it can help inform timing for future events.

The next meeting will be in late winter.
Meeting adjourned at 9:15.