

Raynes Farm Stewardship Committee  
Meeting of September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
Draft Minutes

Members present: Sally Ward, Bill Campbell, Ginny Raub, Kathy Norton, Ben Anderson, Don Briselden, Jillian Price (new Exeter Historic Society Rep), Richard Cole (New Alternate EHS rep).

Staff present: Kristen Murphy

Sally Ward called the meeting to order at 8:32 am.

**Minutes:**

Draft minutes from June 30<sup>th</sup> were reviewed. Mr. Campbell motioned to approve as presented. Ginny Raub seconded. Roll Call vote with all in favor. Motion passes.

**Mowing/Brush Clearing Update:**

David O'Hearn has begun removing the autumn olive and other brush along the field perimeter on the south eastern edge of the front field. The Davis' have conducted a 2<sup>nd</sup> cut of the hay. DPW (Jeff Beck) completed mowing around the outside of the barn. A volunteer cut back grass and vegetation around the gravesite. Ben Anderson cleared the brush on the road side of the stone wall to improve sight lines along Newfields Road at the request of NHDOT. Kathy Norton cut back the vines that were growing up along the barns exterior in several places.

**Outreach:**

Ginny will reach out to the NH Astronomical Society (NHAS) SkyWatch event leader to determine if they plan for it to go forward on Oct 16<sup>th</sup>. The event included a presentation and the telescope viewing of stars in the field. Kristen suggested there may be an opportunity to borrow an outdoor movie screen to move the presentation outside of the barn. It will require approval by the Selectboard should it be determined the NHAS is interested in going forward. The committee was supportive of the chair making final decision to hold or cancel the event after hearing back from NHAS. Sally tentatively scheduled an Oct 3 barn clean up/organization event. Ginny will take a look at the interpretive posters and guided tour layout and identify next steps. Ben Anderson said the Word Barn Meadow will be hosting Center for Wildlife for a Raptors and Reptiles event. He would like to donate a portion of those proceeds to the Conservation Fund to be used at Raynes Barn. The Committee was supportive of tentatively scheduling a Winter Solstice event at Raynes Barn on December 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Other Topics**

Bill has been meeting with the Facilities Committee. One request included ADA accessible access for the property. He recommended cutting a portion of the log around the perimeter of the parking lot to afford for access to the trailhead and field perimeter. He will also contact Jeff Beck to explore the potential for creating a viewpoint at the top of the hill by the barn. We will also ask Jeff Beck about plans for the parking area on the side of the incline against the stone wall; previously PW had planned to spread gravel in that area to create more parking. Ben Anderson requested support for the Committee for removal of a large tree along the road south of the barn. Tree removal is being required by NHDOT in order for them to approve his use of the

field in the southern portion of his property for parking in association with Word Barn Meadow events. Members stated they would like to see the tree in person. Bob Glowacky was able to share a streetview map which allowed Ben to indicate the tree during the meeting. Ben will mark the tree for viewing. Kathy expressed concerns over a broken soffit on the east side of the barn.

### **LCHIP**

Sally reviewed the deadlines for the LCHIP grant application and provided the committee an update. Kristen reviewed the steps that have occurred in preparation of an update the barn structural assessment. It was suggested to review this again with DPW. Kathy, Bill, Sally, Don B, and Kristen would attend that meeting. It was suggested to hold the meeting at the barn so that there could be discussion about short term and long term needs onsite. Kristen will arrange a date. Sally will send a timeline for LCHIP application to the committee.

The Committee welcomed Jillian and Richard as the new Historic Society representatives. They expressed an interest in a tour of the interior of the barn and Jillian offered help with the interpretive signage of the historic items they have stored there. They also expressed an interest in touring the gravesite to identify steps needed to improve its appearance/preservation. Richard did add it to the gravesite map. Richard also offered his expertise to properly clean the gravestones and repair the broken ones. Bill/Kristen will arrange to meet them out there.

Bill proposed that we add a representative from the Heritage Commission to the RFSC. Sally will pursue this idea and present to the CC.

Meeting adjourned at 9:38 am.