

Bolton Heritage Farm Commission

Regular Meeting

Meeting of March 5, 2018

The Bolton Heritage Farm Commission held its regular meeting on March 5, 2018 at the Notch Road Municipal Center, Rm 9. Members in attendance were Arlene Fiano, Kathy Aspinall, Beth Harney, Rhea Klein and Ann Maulucci. Building and Grounds Supervisor John Butrymovich was also present, as were Bolton residents Sandy Pierog and Richard Treat.

1. **Call to order** by Arlene Fiano at 7:00 PM.

2. **Approval of Minutes of February 5, 2018** - corrections:
 - a. Under section 4A - Future Use of the Farm House - 4th line should read "...stated they had done some research..." and the next line should read "...what the next steps would be...";
 - b. Under section 6 - Correspondence - first line should read "...received an email forwarded from Gwen Marrion..." and correct the word "leaches" to "leashes".

Kathy moved that the minutes be approved with corrections; Ann seconded the motion. The motion passed, with Beth abstaining due to absence at the February meeting.

3. **Resident's Forum** - There were no Residents present who wished to comment at this time.

4. **Unfinished Business**
 - 4a. **Farm Maintenance and Repair Projects** - John reported that Security Technologies installed the fire panel upgrades and Frontier Communications made the electrical upgrades needed. The town crew repaired sheathing and shingles on the house that had come loose where the electrical wiring was attached. The driveway and parking area will be graded in the spring once the plowing season is over. The barn renovation sign can be removed from the property. Painting bids for the house have been received but a third is needed, as the cost will exceed \$5,000. Once a successful bid has been identified, John will coordinate the work required.

 - 4b. **Update on fundraising** - Beth will confirm all fund amounts for the April meeting. Sandy represented that the Pennies for the Porch account has approximately \$2,000, Rosie's fund has about the same amount and the town is holding \$50,000 in the Heritage Farm Fund (HFF) for repair, maintenance and improvement projects at the farm. These funds are accumulated from any income received from the farm, such as the Giglio haying contract, which was recently renewed for \$1,975 per year, and monies donated by the summer XC race series. Also, whenever town residents donate

funds to the farm they are added to this fund. It is anticipated that these funds could be used for matching grants that become available.

4c. Student/ School participation/ Educational Programs - Rhea would like to meet with someone from the school to begin a dialogue about the farm as part of the curriculum. Arlene suggested the curriculum coordinator, who can be contacted through the superintendent's office. Richard will circulate an article outlining a programming idea he thinks would bring an exciting educational element to the farm. Arlene suggested we partner with the recreation department's summer programming to highlight aspects of the farm. Rhea offered to host a sub-committee to discuss these options and explore grant opportunities.

4d. Future Use of the Farm House - Arlene confirmed that the town has not heard from the Soucy's concerning their brewing operation proposal. Beth commented that according to the Vibrant Communities Bolton Center Study, the highest and best use for the farmhouse is as a residence or office for town or local businesses.

4e. Discussion of the BHF Memorial Master Plan - the draft plan was reviewed line by line and comments were incorporated. A final version will be sent to the Building and Grounds Committee then to the Board of Selectmen for their review. The plan is timely as there is a potential eagle project that may incorporate some of these projects. Richard would also like to explore an extensive bulb planting/wildflower, native planting program for the bank along Bolton Center Road in time for the town's 300th anniversary.

4f. Vacant Seats on the BHFC - Rhea Klein was formally appointed as a full-time commission member and Ray Marrison was appointed as an alternate.

4g. Policy for Use of the farm by organized groups - nothing to report at this time.

4h. Memorial Day/ Family Day participation - The commission is planning to participate in the parade (if there is one) with a farm tractor pulling Rosie on a trailer, if they can identify someone who has a tractor they would be willing to use. Then the commission will host a tent at Family Day - several ideas were discussed for fund raising, which will be further explored.

4i. 2020 Town Celebration - Arlene has attempted to contact Pam Sawyer concerning the vision for the town's celebration but has not heard back, it was suggested she contact Eileen Stanley. We are considering a re-enactment or a classic car show at the farm. The Board of Selectmen is anticipating that a committee including all town non-profits, boards and commissions represented to prepare for the event(s). More to follow.

4j. New England Humanities Grant follow up - After further review of the grant details, it is a matching grant program and had a short deadline, and we were not prepared with a formal program to submit or matching funds. Rhea had attempted to contact a Humanities professor from MCC, Dr. Yang, in the hopes of a collaboration that would reduce our matching funds requirement but she has not heard back from him. Arlene would like to be more prepared for future grant opportunities by developing a written statement, power point and documentary to help explain who we are and what we have to offer at the BHF. We can also have some shovel ready projects looking for funding that can be polished up quickly when these grant opportunities arise.

4k. **Other** - Rhea pointed out that the BHF is not listed on the Barn Tour list prepared by the Connecticut Council on Culture and Tourism, and she will explore getting us added to the list.

5. New Business

5a. Farmers Market/ Antique Truck and Tractor Show 2018 - The Farmers Market/ Antique Truck and Tractor show is planned for August 26, 2018 and Arlene has a flyer to put on the town website. Jess from Cropley's has been ill and unable to begin preparations, but Arlene will contact Jim Cropley and Lance Dimmock to get started. While it would be great to have the show at the farm, the farmers like the visibility of the green and gazebo.

5b. BHF History Presentation\ documentary - Gwen and Sandy have a presentation that they have done at several events and Arlene would like to formalize it for other uses, incorporating slides and commentary. She would also like to have more pictures on the town website, which has recently been updated and asked us to submit photos to Kathy McCavanagh at town hall to put up on the website. We would also like to have links to electronic versions of the formal studies relating to the farm added to our page, and we will explore how to do that.

5c. Discussion of future grants and repair opportunities - Arlene met informally with Roger Barrett of Country Carpenters to discuss what could be done to repair/ replace the porch on the farmhouse. The required work is extensive, as the existing structure is no longer viable or repairable. Roger suggested that his firm may be willing to assist with the documentation and removal of the porch now and would donate materials to replace it at some future date if we could pay for the labor. In anticipation of the project, he prepared a detailed scope of work. The commission discussed the need to remove the porch, which is both unsafe and unsightly in its current condition. The protective fencing is no longer deterring residents from accessing the porch, which is a potential liability and may further damage the building before we have a chance to document it. The Commission agreed that in advance of painting the house, we should remove the porch structure after documenting all of its features so that it can be rebuilt in kind. Country Carpenters may be willing to remove the porch for the monies we have in our Pennies for the Porch fund provided they can do so before April 15th of this year, when their active season begins. The commission will present this idea to the Board of Selectmen for their approval at an upcoming meeting, in the hopes that we can be allowed to remove the porch for safety and aesthetic reasons and replace it in stages as funds become available. With the approval of the BHFC, Arlene will meet with Roger to confirm a total estimated cost for the replacement project, which Sandy

believes will be important information for the BOS meeting and to confirm that Country Carpenters is able to proceed.

5d. **Other** - Nothing to report.

6. **Correspondence** - Deb Livingston has requested the use of the farm for a summer running series on 6 Wednesdays and will agree to donate a portion of the proceeds to the Heritage Farm Fund as has been done in prior years. The six dates requested are: 6/20, 6/27, 7/11, 7/18, 7/25, 8/1. She has also requested the use of the farm on CT Trails Day for a kid's hike. Both requests were approved by the BHFC.

7. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:07PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth Harney, vice chairwoman

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