

Heritage Farm Commission
Special Meeting
January 9, 2023

The Bolton Heritage Farm Commission held its regular meeting on January 9, 2023 at 7:00PM via Zoom. Members in attendance were chair Arlene Fiano, vice chair Beth Harney, Rhea Klein, Cara Wraight, Leslie Shea, Ann Maulucci, Paula Lynn. Building and grounds supervisor John Butrymovich, and Bolton Historic Commission alternate Bonnie Massey were also present.

1. Call to order and Approval of Minutes

Arlene called the meeting to order at 7:03 P.M. Arlene requested that the agenda be amended to delete 'Item 1. Approval of the June 4, 2022 Regular meeting minutes, Approval of the September 12, 2022 Regular meeting minutes' which were approved in October, and replaced with '1. Approval of Regular meeting minutes October 3, 2022' which are outstanding. Motion suggested by Leslie, seconded by Cara, motion carried unanimously. Beth moved that the minutes of October 3, 2022 be approved as written, Leslie seconded, motion was unanimously approved. Rhea abstained as she was not in attendance on 10/3/22.

2. Resident's Forum (Public Comment for items NOT on the Agenda)

None at this time.

3. Correspondence

Nothing at this time.

4. 2023 Calendar of Regular Meeting Dates

Dates agreed include the following for 7:00 PM:

1/9/23 - Special Meeting

2/6/23

3/6/23

4/3/23

5/1/23

6/5/23 - Meeting will be held at the farm at 6:00PM to allow for a walk-through of buildings and grounds.

7/10/23

8/7/23

9/11/23

10/2/23

11/6/23

12/4/23

5. Unfinished Business

A. Farm Maintenance Report

Town crews have been mowing the fields and trimming from storm damage. The most recent storm pulled leaders away and siding on the house, all of which will have to be replaced. Crews continue to clear rocks from the Rose Trail to make mowing easier. Leslie raised the issue of loose bricks and piles of uncut logs cluttering up the cement patio. Bricks are used for foundation repairs as needed, and the logs and other wood donations are being saved for the planned re-enactment next fall. John agreed to meet at the farm to determine where bricks and logs should be stored so that the farm commission can meet and put them in neater order to improve the appearance of the area.

B. Update on Fundraising

Beth reported the balance in the M&T Bank account since 11/22/21, when the balance was \$5,870. The Heritage Farm Fund with the town is at \$11,024 Changes since the prior report included \$180 from the Summer Cross Country Running Series, \$315 in checks and \$300 in cash from the Sleigh Bells Ring fair.

C. CE11 Wood Barn design UCONN Capstone Project

No update at this time. The project outlines were to be submitted for approval prior to the end of the semester, and engineering designs to be completed by May 2023.

D. Sara Nelson Report Update/ Master Plan on town website

The updated version of the Master Plan was received over the past weekend from Nelson Edwards and forwarded to the town for replacement of the existing draft on the website. Two printed copies are due in the coming week, one for the commission and one for the town, to be available at the library.

E. NPS/WR3 update

Arlene reported no progress has been made concerning the wayfinding signs to be funded by NPS. She will contact town hall to try to re-energize the project. Locations were discussed and recommended over 2 years ago, but progress stalled because some of the locations need DOT approval. These signs should be in place prior to the Re-enactment event in October 2023.

F. LOTCIP Grant Update

According to Jim Rupert, the town was sent a list of questions concerning their LOTCIP grant application, which were answered and returned. The scope of the grant approved program will determine our next steps at the farm, and is therefore of major interest to the commission and the town. The funding is authorized by the state, so we are hopeful to hear something soon.

G. October 7 and 8, 2023 - Living History Weekend

Patrick Carroll from Le Regiment Bourbonnais submitted a preliminary budget to the town, which included an additional \$2000 from prior approvals for food for the re-enactors for the weekend and potential payment to encourage period tradesmen to participate. The town has approved the increased funding request. The re-enactment organizations met last weekend to set their calendars for the upcoming year, and we will hear in early February which participants will attend our event this fall. Carroll has requested a planning meeting in the coming weeks and after discussion with the commission members it was determined that the meeting could be held after March 6th.

H. Digging Into History - State Archeological dig at the farm this summer

Arlene has not heard from anyone at the CT State Library and will reach out for the February meeting.

i. Presentation for the Bolton Greater Together Community Fund Awards night

The BHFC and the town have received \$6000 in grant funds to refurbish potable water installations at the farm. The commission has been asked to showcase this project at an awards night to be held February 8, 2023 at Bentley Memorial Library. We will use this forum to explain briefly what our project is intended to achieve, and to explain the Master Plan through graphic displays and a short presentation. Most members will be able to attend.

J. Next Grant Applications

While the scope of the LOTCIP grant will determine what else is needed at the farm, we know it will not cover the detailed blueprints and building plans for the toilet building and improvements needed on the barn structure. Rhea will investigate whether that can be completed under a survey and planning grant. It will be important to have a 'shovel ready' project should a source of funding be available, either in kind donations or grant monies.

K. Fundraisers for 2023

2022 was a successful year of fundraising for the BHFC, and our calendar of events was discussed for the coming year. Rhea has agreed to host Summer Yoga at the Farm again; St. Maurice Church will host the Sleigh Bells Ring fair and the commission will participate. The Winter Faire, scheduled one week after SBR may be too close to allow for enough product, particularly if we do as well at SBR as this past year. Arlene suggested we consider a Winter Solstice Party, selling luminaria bags and battery candles to families who wish to participate, with free hot chocolate and popcorn, possible music or carol singing. More research is needed. Leslie suggested we can use additional benches at the farm and is willing to research locations and types of benches that could be an additional fundraiser for the farm.

6. New Business

- A. Arlene received an email request from NPS to identify any 'niche' tourism opportunities near our section of the WARO route for a brochure they are creating. Cara agreed to follow up with this request, which may include the East Coast Greenway/ Hop River Rail Trail, local breweries and wineries, golf courses, restaurants and pubs, etc.

B. Beth reminded the commission that we have use of the library display case for the month of March 2023. It was agreed that we would showcase our Master Plan diagrams, along with some antique tools recently donated to the farm, old photographs and potentially a donated piece of artwork by Myrtle Carlson, which Rhea and Bonnie will evaluate and potentially clean/ refresh. More discussion will take place at the February meeting.

7. Adjournment

Leslie moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:27PM, Rhea seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth Harney, vice chair

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