

**Heritage Farm Commission**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**July 10, 2023**

The Bolton Heritage Farm Commission held its regular meeting on July 10, 2023 at 7:00PM at the Bolton Town Hall. Members in attendance were chair Arlene Fiano, vice chair Beth Harney, Cara Wraight, Leslie Shea, and Rhea Klein via Zoom. Bonnie Massey was seated in place of Ann Maulucci, who was not present. Alternate Paula Lynn, Building and grounds supervisor John Butrymovich and Kevin Drake, who is assisting with the Digging Into History event were also present.

**1. Call to order and Approval of Minutes**

Arlene called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M. The minutes of June 5th were approved unanimously after a motion made by Leslie Shea, seconded by Cara Wraight.

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

None at this time.

**3. Correspondence**

- a. Beth reported that we are approved for a booth space at the Sleigh Bells Ring fair in November.
- b. Arlene received a written request to elect officers for the coming year; as the request was received after the agenda was submitted, we will elect officers at the August meeting.

**4. Unfinished Business**

**a. Farm Maintenance Report/ potable water project update**

Town crews have performed normal mowing of the farm cleared areas, including cleaning up the trail for the Summer Cross Country series. Several broken windows were replaced at the barn. The required filters were installed in the well, so the water now needs to be retested before public usage can begin. John B will take that on with the town administrator, and expects water to be available for the October Living History weekend.

**b. Update on Fundraising**

Beth reported the balance in the M&T Bank account is \$5,466.74. The Heritage Farm Fund has approximately \$8,032; exact amounts are unavailable due to year end close.

**c. NPS Wayfinding Signage**

Nothing to report - Arlene to contact new Road foreman Sean Bailey in a few weeks once he is up to speed.

**d. Digging Into History event**

1. The tent was set up today, tables and chairs are coming tomorrow. Town crew will install the white hose on the water spigot behind town hall for student use. Students arrive on Tuesday night and will be in Hartford on Wednesday, arriving at the farm to begin the dig on Thursday. Jim Altman from Fox61 will be on the site on Thursday morning and dignitaries/ media will be on site on Friday 7/14.
2. Picnic update - Christine Pittsley has decided to purchase all the food and supplies at BJ's Wholesale Club to fit her budget. Fish Family Farm has donated vanilla ice cream for the event. Several members' spouses have offered to grill using the facilities at the Bolton Congregational Church. Arlene will contact Jim Rupert for permission to roast marshmallows and s'mores in a fire pit on the farm. Pam Evans is baking individual blueberry crisps for the attendees. Trash cans will be provided by the town crew if needed, and no parking signs will be installed on the roadway. UPDATE: it was decided based on the thunderstorms forecast for Friday afternoon to host the picnic in Chandler Hall, and if the weather permits we can move up to the farm for dessert crepes, ice cream and s'mores. At present, there are 93 attendees that have sent RSVPs. Expecting at least a few more.

#### **e. Living History weekend - October 7-8**

This project planning is on hold until after the Digging Into History event, but a formal count of re-enactors is due from Patrick Carroll by early August.

#### **f. LOTCIP Grant Update**

Work has begun on the walking path from the Town Hall parking lot past the police station and behind the library. Permeable pipe is being laid, and then a path is created over it. The path will eventually run along Bolton Center Road to the firehouse, removing the drainage ditches on the north side of the road. Phase II will run from town hall through the farm to the high school, and has not been officially drawn out yet.

### **5. New Business**

- A. Arlene reminded the commission that Sarah Sportman, state archaeologist, offered to assist us in finding a grant for a climate controlled case to hold any artifacts that are uncovered on the farm. We will pursue that with her over the coming months.
  
- B. The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving's Bolton Greater Together grant application process is open for 2023, with grant applications due by October 1. This was how we funded the well project for potable water in 2022. Maximum grant amount offered is \$5000. The commission discussed adding sitting rocks and benches to the trail around the farm. More discussion is needed, particularly with the town finance officer, as it is proposed that we try to reimburse town crews for relocating existing materials on the farm to complete this project. Beth to pursue this with Jill Collins.

### **7. Adjournment**

Bonnie moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:03PM, Leslie 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.