

Heritage Farm Commission

Regular Meeting

March 4, 2024

The Bolton Heritage Farm Commission held a regular meeting March 4, 2024 at the Municipal Center Room B. Members in attendance were chair Arlene Fiano, vice chair Beth Harney, Ann Maulucci, Rhea Klein, Leslie Shea and Cara Wraight, alternate Bonnie Massey, and Building and Grounds supervisor John Butrymovich. Member absent Paula Lynn.

1. Call to order and Approval of Minutes -

Arlene called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M. The minutes of February 5, 2024 were unanimously approved.

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

None at this time.

3. Correspondence

None at this time.

4. Unfinished Business

a. Farm Maintenance Report/ potable water project update

John Butrymovich reported that February was a slow time for work at the farm, except for plowing of the parking area. Plowing is becoming increasingly difficult as the entrance/ exit driveway is in very poor condition. Millings have been staged up at the farm to fill in potholes and level grading areas once the weather breaks for the winter season.

Leslie again mentioned that the condition of the driveway is very poor, which is not a good look for a town venue open to the general public. While the roadways and parking areas of the farm are rumored to be included in the LOTCIP phase II project, that work has been delayed, and any upgrades will not be timely. John mentioned that he thought the town engineer was almost finished with design work, which the commission agreed should be shared with the farm commission in advance of any public hearing. Arlene agreed to request a meeting with Jim Rupert for a timely review of any plans. At this meeting other maintenance items will be discussed, and the town crews will hopefully be able to address them once the new portable offices are in place.

The potable water installation is technically complete; once the cold weather is past, the town crew will activate the well so it is available for event use.

b. Update on Fundraising

Beth reported the balance in the M&T Bank account (Rosie Fund) is \$6,769.43. The Heritage Farm Fund has \$8,633.53 including interest from February. There was discussion of adding Arlene and Cara as signatories to the M&T account. Beth has the incorporation papers and these members will schedule a time to complete this task.

d. Grants for climate-controlled display case - Digging Into History artifacts

Rhea and Cara have been coordinating the effort to obtain a display case for the small artifacts found during last summer's archaeology program with the Connecticut State Library and Sarah Sportman, the CT State Archaeologist. The case will reside in the Bentley Library, and measurements and a location have been discussed with library staff. We plan to apply for a CT Humanities Council quick grant in May, and Rhea

has identified a company that can provide display cases to fit our needs. Sarah Sportman is finishing a project but anticipates having more time to spend on this effort in the coming weeks.

e. Ongoing Construction Projects for the farm - [some topics not on agenda]

1. **Manure pit regrading** - We have received one quote from Landie Construction for \$19k. Because of the dollar amount, John will need to obtain 2 additional written quotes before any work can be approved.
2. **Concrete pad** - nothing to report at this time.
3. **Pole Barn/ Pavilion** - Country Carpenters will be developing a formal proposal for this project, but 2 other quotes will be needed once a scope of work is created.
4. **Sanitation/ Utility Building** - Country Carpenters is also working up a design and proposal for this structure, which is much more detailed.
5. **Funding for these projects** - There are currently no grant monies or town funding allocated for these projects. The commission has been alerted to several potential opportunities to secure funding from outside sources, including Congressionally Directed Spending, SHPO grants, CT Trust for Historic Preservation grants, Harford Foundation Community Fund grants and others. Arlene and Rhea are attending an introductory Zoom session this week with the State Historic Preservation Office [SHPO] to learn more about the requirements for their grants. These grants are for remediation and renovation of existing historic properties and are not for new construction. We have also been told that structural conditions assessments must be within 10 years old if to be used to support new project work. Since our Nelson Edwards assessment was completed in 2010, we must determine if it can be updated by a letter or other means. This should be possible as the significant issues addressed in the report are still pertinent, and the improvements made have been documented. Most of these grants have a matching funds component, and some require 100% funding with reimbursement on completion. Once we have developed some detailed scopes of work on these projects, the commission will need to design some fundraising activities to support funding the work. And of course, all projects completed at the farm require support and approval from the Board of Selectmen.

f. House Carrying Beam Replacement -

Country Carpenters has submitted a proposal to replace this beam for \$6000. John B indicated that projects over \$5k require 3 verbal quotes before submission to the town. Rhea indicated that the Bolton Historical Society has funding for the house, and might be willing to contribute to this work, as it is needed to stabilize the building prior to any further renovations. John also indicated there might be some capital funding left in his budget.

g. Outstanding Projects

1. **LOTICIP/ STEAP follow up** - no report at this time
2. **NPS Wayfinding Signage**

Arlene met with Sean Bailey, new head of Roads in town, to discuss the placement of wayfinding signs on the roads leading to the farm. This initiative was part of the NPS funding that covered the interpretive signs and the reenactment event held last October, but has not yet been completed. Sign locations, types and sizes have been agreed upon by all parties and signs will be ordered. Kathy at town hall will facilitate any DOT approvals required. We are hopeful that these signs can be installed well in advance of the 250th Anniversary celebration for America in 2026, when we hope to host a large event at the farm.

5. New Business

None at this time

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Beth Harney, vice chair

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