

Brookside Farm Museum  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
January 27, 2021

Present: Gary Lakowsky, Chairman  
Richard MacDonald  
Robert Seifel  
Robert Patterson

FILED

Jan 29, 2021 AT 11:32 AM/PM

*Brookside Farm ATC*

EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Absent: Cheri Meier  
Maggi Prokop

Also Present: Donna Massung, President of the Friends

**I. CALL TO ORDER.** Chairman Lakowsky called the January 27, 2021 Brookside Farm Museum Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.** Mr. Lakowsky asked for additions, deletions or corrections to the November 18, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes.

**MOTION (1):** Mr. MacDonald moved to approve the November 18, 2020 Brookside Farm Museum Regular Meeting Minutes, as presented. Seconded by Mr. Seifel (4-0) Unanimous.

**III. REPORTS.**

a. Agenda Additions. Mr. Lakowsky asked if there were any Agenda additions.

**MOTION (2):** Mr. Patterson asked that under New Business, Property Maintenance, item 3. Clean Up Day, be added to this evening's Agenda. Seconded by Mr. Seifel. (4-0) Unanimous.

b. Public Delegations. Ms. Massung plans to take the Christmas candles down over the weekend.

c. Ex-Officio. Mr. Cunningham was unable to be present, and there was no report.

1. Election of Officers. The following slate of officers was presented: Gary Lakowsky, Chairman; Robert Seifel, Vice Chairman; Robert Paterson, Treasurer and Maggi Prokop, Corresponding Secretary.

**MOTION (3):** Mr. Patterson moved to accept the above slate of officers, as presented. Seconded by Mr. MacDonald. (4-0) Unanimous.

d. Curator. Mr. Lakowsky reported Joshua Taylor prepared a Job Description to be used for the next Curator. Mr. Patterson agreed to be on the Search Committee.

e. Chairman. Mr. Lakowsky reported Heidi Trees was pleased with its new location.

Mr. Lakowsky informed the Committee he has put down caution tape on the property across from Lillie B. Haynes to allow the grass to grow. Mr. Lakowsky informed the Commission the Town has property in front of the driveway. He suggested we move the two stone walls and make one wall across from Lillie B. Haynes.

**f. Financial.**

1. **Status Update.** Mr. Patterson reported as of the last report he received, there was \$10,365.66 in the Brookside Farm Museum budget.
2. **Presentation of Bills.** Ms. Massung presented a bill from True Value for batteries for Christmas candles in the amount of \$29.98.

**MOTION (4): Mr. MacDonald moved to pay the True Value bill for batteries for the Christmas candles in the amount of \$29.98. Seconded by Mr. Seifel. (4-0) Unanimous.**

3. **2021-22 Budget.** Mr. Lakowsky reported \$110 has been added to the electric bill line item for the upcoming budget. An increase from Eversource is expected.

Mr. Patterson asked if this Commission pays for water use? Mr. Lakowsky replied it does pay for minimum usage.

**MOTION (5): Mr. Seifel moved to approve the 2021-22 budget in the amount of \$15,320. Seconded by Mr. Patterson. (4-0) Unanimous.**

Mr. Lakowsky was contacted by First Selectman Mark Nickerson to request that we cut 50% from the Curator's line item. Mr. Lakowsky felt if we hire a Curator by springtime, the Curator's salary will be taken out of the 2021-22 budget. Mr. Lakowsky suggested taking \$400 out of the telephone budget. This will not allow us to have the Internet. The new Curator will need the internet. Mr. Lakowsky will have discussion with the First Selectman. This Commission has never asked for an increase to its budget and is not able to cut its budget.

**g. COLLECTIONS.** No new collections were received.

**h. CORRESPONDENCE.** Mr. Lakowsky received a Liability Insurance Certificate, dated December 9, 2020 from Girl Scouts.

Mr. Lakowsky received a request from the East Lyme Public Trust Foundation to use the barn at 6:30 p.m. for a two-hour meeting in the barn on the following dates: March 23, April 27, June 22, July 27, August 24 and September 28. Mr. Patterson suggested that they be asked for a donation in order to pay for supplies to clean up and for electricity usage. Mr. Lakowsky informed him we normally do not charge non-profits to use the barn. It was felt that a one-time donation of \$50 can be suggested.

**MOTION (6): Mr. MacDonald moved to allow the East Lyme Public Trust Foundation to use the barn on the dates stated. Seconded by Mr. Seifel. (4-0) Unanimous.**

**IV. OLD BUSINESS**

a. **Property Maintenance**

1. **General Maintenance Report.** The house will be painted in the spring.  
The garden fence will need to be put back up.

2. **Trees.** Only one tree remains to be cut. All others that needed to be removed have been taken down.

b. **MUSEUM DEVELOPMENT.** There was no discussion on museum development.

c. **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Because of COVID-19 There are no upcoming events.

**V. NEW BUSINESS**

a. **PROPERTY MAINTENANCE.**

1. The house painting will be done with monies in the Public Works budget.

2. **Split Rail fence.** Mr. Lakowsky will correspond with the Building Department on what steps we will need to take and whether or not a permit will be needed to install a split rail fence. We would also have to call before we dig, because there is a gas line to the library. He plans to ask the Lions if they will be able to help. If the area needs to be fenced off, a community garden may be able to be planted at that location. He felt if we had a 6' fence in from the road, people could park to come into the garden. The fire hydrant would have to be outside of the fence.

3. **Clean Up Day.** Mr. Patterson had a request for community service to be done by February 22, 2021. It was felt this work cannot be done by that date. It was suggested that they help during Clean-up Day to held on April 17, with a rain date of April 24. Commission members will check their calendars to see if they are available on those dates. Mr. Lakowsky will check with the Lions to determine if they are available to help on those dates.

b. **MUSEUM DEVELOPMENT**

There was nothing new on museum development.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION (7): Mr. Seifel moved to adjourn the January 27, 2020 Brookside Farm Museum Regular Meeting at 7:55 p.m. Seconded by Mr. MacDonaldl (4-0) Unanimous.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Frances Gheri, Recording Secretary**