

Brookside Farm Museum
Regular Meeting Minutes
April 28, 2021

Present: Gary Lakowsky, Chairman
Cheri Meier
Maggi Prokop
Robert Seifel

Absent: Richard MacDonald
Robert Patterson

Also Present: Dan Cunningham, Ex officio

FILED

May 3 20 21 AT 1:53 AM/PM
(Signature)
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

I. CALL TO ORDER. Chairman Lakowsky called the April 28, 2021 Brookside Farm Museum Regular Meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES. Mr. Lakowsky asked for additions, deletions or corrections to the March 24, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes.

The following correction was noted: On page 3, the second paragraph under 2, the second sentence should be revised as follows: "No variance from the road will be needed."

MOTION (1): Ms. Prokop moved to approve the March 24, 2021 Brookside Farm Museum Regular Meeting Minutes, as amended. Seconded by Ms. Meier. Mr. Seifel abstained from voting. (3-0-1) Motion carried.

III. REPORTS.

- a. Agenda Additions. Mr. Lakowsky asked if there were any Agenda additions and there were none.
- b. Public Delegations. There were no guests.
- c. Ex-Officio. Mr. Cunningham reported the Board of Selectmen voted to approve \$35,000 for data terminals for the police.

He informed the Commission that SCORE gave a presentation to the Board of Selectmen asking that the Town pass a resolution for a subcommittee to take action on some of the concerns on racism.

The Board of Selectmen discussed the American Rescue Plan. The Garden Club and Care and Share made presentations to the Board of Selectmen.

The price of garbage cans will increase from \$200 to \$210.

- d. Curator. A resume has been received from an individual who has expressed interest in being Curator of the Brookside Farm Museum. Mr. Lakowsky will ask Mr. Patterson to advertise through NEMA's job listings and in CLHO's Who's looking for Who. It is hoped by next year this

Commission will have a new Curator. This is a part-time position at an hourly rate of \$16-\$20 per hour.

- e. Chairman. Mr. Lakowsky had nothing to report at this time.
- f. Financial.
 - 1. Status Update. Mr. Lakowsky reported as of today there is \$10,174.50 remaining in the Brookside Farm Museum budget.
 - 2. Presentation of Bills. Mr. Lakowsky reported a bill was received from 18th Century Restoration Carpentry, LLC for the porch railing and installation.

MOTION (2): Mr. Seifel moved to approve the bill from 18th Century Restoration Carpentry, LLC for the porch railing and installation in the amount of \$150. Seconded by Ms. Prokop. (4-0) Unanimous.

- 3. 2021-22 Budget. Mr. Lakowsky reported a member of the Board of Finance asked if the Curator's salary could be reduced by one-half. Ms. Alberti informed him the Board of Finance will have a Public Hearing on April 26. At the Public Hearing the Board of Finance restored the salary for the Curator. The Commission's 2021-22 budget was approved as presented. The electric bill needed to be increased because of Eversource's rate increase. The Annual Town Meeting will be held on May 3, 2021.
- g. **COLLECTIONS.** No new collections were received.
- h. **CORRESPONDENCE.** Mr. Lakowsky informed the Commission he received an email on April 8 from Mark Christensen informing him that Marjorie Meekoff has started a new group in town called the Pollinator Pathways. She asked that this Commission formulate a plan to plant wildflowers on the properties this Commission controls. Commission members suggested wildflowers in the middle of the circle of the driveway, along the fence between the corncrib and putting wildflowers in the former garden. Mr. Lakowsky agreed to contact them and show them the areas where they can be planted.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Property Maintenance
 - 1. General Maintenance Report. Mr. Lakowsky reported the hatchway door to the basement needs to be repaired or replaced. Mr. Lakowsky agreed to obtain estimates.
 - 2. Trees. The remaining tree needs to be removed. Mr. Bragaw informed him the highway crew will have a class at the Community Center on removing trees. At the end of the class, they would like to have a practical. They will have their practical by removing the last dead ash tree on the Brookside Farm Museum property.
 - 3. Clean Up Day. Mr. Lakowsky reported we had 20 hard-working volunteers on Clean Up Day. A pile of branches remains. Mr. Lakowsky removed tree limbs and stumps.
- b. **MUSEUM DEVELOPMENT.**

There was no discussion on museum development.

c. UPCOMING EVENTS

Mr. Lakowsky asked Commission members to suggest events that may be held at the house. He suggested a music exhibition.

V. NEW BUSINESS

a. PROPERTY MAINTENANCE.

1. Painting. Mr. Lakowsky received an email from Mr. Bragaw who informed him he is trying to obtain funds for painting the house. If the Selectmen approve the funding, he will have the painting done this year.
2. Split Rail fence. Mr. Lakowsky obtained a quote from Rings End for material for the split rail fence in the amount of \$910.65. He also received a quote from Riverhead Building Supply in the amount of \$1,163. He also checked with True Value, and they do not have the materials needed. The split rail fence will be placed in Brookside Farm Museum lot across from Lillie B. Haynes.

MOTION (3): Ms. Prokop moved to approve a Purchase Order to Rings End to purchase materials for a post and split rail fencing in the amount of \$910.65 to be taken from the Maintenance Budget. (4-0) Unanimous.

3. Inside Cleaning. Mr. Lakowsky agreed to contact Ms. Massung to request to have the house annual cleaning work done.

b. MUSEUM DEVELOPMENT

1. ELHS Anthropology Class Research Ice House Starting October 6. Will Reed would like to tour the house. He informed Mr. Lakowsky the house would receive any of their findings.

MOTION (4): Ms. Meier moved to approve the East Lyme High School Anthropology Class Research of the Ice House beginning on October 6, 2021. Seconded by Ms. Prokop. (4-0) Unanimous.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION (5): Ms. Meier moved to adjourn the April 28, 2021 Brookside Farm Museum Regular Meeting at 7:55 p.m. Seconded by Ms. Prokop. (4-0) Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Gheri, Recording Secretary