

BROOKSIDE FARM MUSEUM
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 26, 2023

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TOWN CLERK

Present: Robert Seifel, Chairman
Maggi Prokop
Cheri Meier
Richard MacDonald

Also Present: Donna Massung, President of the Friends
Annah Perch, Curator
Dan Cunningham, Ex officio

I. CALL TO ORDER Chairman Seifel called the April 26, 2023 Brookside Farm Museum Meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES. Mr. Seifel asked for additions, deletions or corrections to the Brookside Farm Museum Regular Meeting Minutes of March 22, 2023.

MOTION (1): Ms. Meier moved to approve the March 22, 2023 Brookside Farm Museum Regular Meeting Minutes, as presented. Seconded by Mr. MacDonald. Mr. MacDonald abstained from voting. (3-0-1) Motion carried

III. REPORTS

- a. Agenda Additions. There were no additions to the agenda.
- b. Public Delegations. Ms. Massung had nothing new to report.
- c. Ex-Officio. Mr. Cunningham reported the Board of Selectmen are reviewing the best option for the Dominion building on Main Street.

The Yale Charette is presenting ideas to the town. Parking is becoming a critical issue in town.

A study is being done to improve Rt. 161. A boardwalk is being considered for the Gorton Pond area. A study is being done on widening Rt. 161.

The highway project is moving along at a quick pace. It is expected to be completed in four years.

The Selectmen have discussed changing the town hall hours to 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday and Friday from 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

A Zoning Text Amendment is being considered for the village area. There are pros and cons being discussed with the properties in that area. Ms. Perch stated one of the early missions is increasing tourism.

- d. Curator. Ms. Perch had no comments at this time.
- e. Chairman. Mr. Seifel asked for a commission member to volunteer to be Treasurer of this commission.
- f. Financial

1. Status Update. Mr. Seifel reported the remaining amount in the Brookside Farm Museum budget is \$4,675.77.
2. Presentation of Bills. Ms. Perch presented a bill for the annual web hosting in the amount of \$96.

Ms. Meier presented a bill for two brooms, dust pans and large bags to protect items in the attic in the amount of \$61.54.

MOTION (2): Ms. Meier moved to approve the bill from Ms. Perch for the annual web hosting in the amount of \$96. Seconded by Ms. Prokop. (4-0) Unanimous.

MOTION (3): Ms. Prokop moved to approve the bill from Ms. Meier for two brooms, dust pans and large bags in the amount of \$61.54. Seconded by Mr. MacDonald. (4-0) Unanimous.

Ms. Perch suggested that the Commission consider the purchase of the following items: past perfect, a new printer and ink, picnic benches, supplies for cataloging, and split rails for the fence.

MOTION (4): Ms. Meier moved to approve the discretionary items for the house for an amount not to exceed \$2,200. Seconded by Ms. Prokop. (4-0) Unanimous.

3. 2023/2024 Budget. Mr. Seifel will contact the Finance Director to determine the status of this Commission's 2023/2024 budget.
4. Collections. Ms. Prokop reported a tea service has been donated. Since it was marked 1964, it is not appropriate for the house and it will not be accepted.

Ms. Massung reported she is waiting for paperwork on the butter churn.

- g. Correspondence. Ms. Massung reported a letter will be sent to Jim Harris, the Advisor of the Leos, thanking the Leos for their help on Clean up Day.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Property Maintenance

1. General Maintenance Report. Commission members met on April 22, 2023 for Clean up Day. Joe Bragaw will be contacted to determine where we are placed on the Capital Improvement Fund for painting the house. Ms. Perch reported some shingles on the roof need maintenance.
- b. Museum Development. There was no discussion on museum development.
- c. Events.
 1. June 10 is Open House Day from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be a spinning demonstration and hopefully some sheep. We will have tours of the house and games for the youngsters. Ms. Meier suggested a tag sale for items not appropriate for the house.

V. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Barn Rentals. Ms. Meier reported Niantic Community Church will have a retreat in the barn on April 29. No fee will be charged for it.

The barn is rented on May 19 and June 24.
- b. NEMA and CHLO. Ms. Perch informed the commission Scott Wands is Director of CHLO.
 1. Web page, Facebook and Administrator. Ms. Perch reported our new website is brooksidefarm.com

She will begin posting on Facebook.
- c. Historical Properties Commission. Ms. Prokop reported Mark Christensen provided a flyer for Brookside Farm which the commission reviewed.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION (5): Ms. Prokop moved to adjourn the April 26, 2023 Brookside Farm Museum Regular Meeting at 8:30 p.m. Seconded by Ms. Meier. (4-0) Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Gheri, Recording Secretary