

**BROOKSIDE FARM MUSEUM  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
AUGUST 23, 2023**

**Present:** Robert Seifel. Chairman  
Maggi Prokop  
Cheri Meier  
Richard MacDonald  
William Follett

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

RECEIVED FOR RECORD  
EAST LYME, CT  
2023 AUG 29 A 10:24  
Cynthia M. Prokop  
TOWN CLERK

**I. CALL TO ORDER** Chairman Seifel called the August 23, 2023 Brookside Farm Museum Meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.** Mr. Seifel asked for additions, deletions or corrections to the Brookside Farm Museum Regular Meeting Minutes of July 26, 2023.

**MOTION (1):** Mr. MacDonald moved to approve the July 26, 2023 Brookside Farm Museum Regular Meeting Minutes, as presented. Seconded by Mr. Seifel. Ms. Prokop abstained from voting. (3-0-1) Motion carried.

**III. REPORTS**

- a. Agenda Additions. There were no additions to the agenda.
- b. Public Delegations. Ms. Larson complimented the Commission on a well-received music event. She also complimented Ms. Perch on a good job at the Lunch and Learn at the Senior Center.
- c. Ex-Officio. Mr. Cunningham reported the Board of Selectmen have been focusing on the Charter Revision's proposed additions. There will be questions on the November ballot on certain aspects of changes to the Charter. The Board of Selectmen will make information available to the voters.

Construction at Exit 74 is taking place. It has created a demand on the East Lyme Police Department. When East Lyme police officers are unable to man it, they have entered into an agreement with Montville Police Department to assist.

On September 6 there will be a meeting on new EV chargers at the town hall. This is for a three-phase power for high-speed chargers. A grant is available, which will allow the town to purchase electric vehicles.

Mr. Cunningham informed the Commission he is also ex-officio to the Waterford/East Lyme Shellfish Commission. When the temperature of the water is over 75 degrees an individual with a wound may get a virus.

- d. Curator. (See attached report). Ms. Perch reported Teri Yuhas would like to come to the September meeting of this Commission.

Ms. Perch wrote a \$5,000 grant to allow for docent training for seniors.

She made a presentation at the East Lyme Senior Center. One-half of the participants toured the house. Dr. Linda Lacerte would like to be a tour guide and help with cataloging. Wanda Stazick would like to join the Commission.

Commission member Cheri Meier joined the meeting.

Ms. Perch suggested that the house be opened 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. two days per week.

She would like to have the names and addresses for an annual appeal letter. She would also like to start a newsletter. She has been thinking about fundraising.

She suggested adding a bathroom outside of the barn as well as repainting the barn.

Ms. Meier felt the trail needs to be cleared.

- e. Chairman. Mr. Seifel spoke with Ron Bence regarding painting of the house. The cost was \$100,000 and is now \$145,000. To avoid another increase, the town will try to have it done this year.
- f. Financial
  - 1. Status Update. The balance in the Brookside Farm Museum budget is \$8,420.59.
  - 2. Presentation of Bills. No bills were presented.
  - 3. 2023-2004 Budget. The 2023-2004 budget was \$16,940. Discussion will be held with the Finance Director regarding the remaining balance.
  - 4. Collections. Ms. Perch reported she and Linda Lacenti will begin cataloging the collections.
- g. Correspondence. Ms. Perch received an email from Bridget Morrissey who wrote a book in which the Smith-Harris House is mentioned.

#### **IV. OLD BUSINESS**

- a. Property Maintenance
  - 1. General Maintenance Report. Ron Bence took care of a bee's nest next to the garden fence. He also fixed the spigot on the hose.

Ms. Perch informed the Commission Wanda Stacik is dedicated to the garden. She would like to plant wild flowers.

A teacher from the Middle School is looking to start a garden at the house. Ms. Perch suggested having a farm stand manned by students.

- b. Museum Development. Trivia Night will be held on September 23 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Will Reed will MC it. A donation of \$15 per person will be requested.

- c. Events.

On August 20 from 6-8 p.m. an evening of Irish music was held with an Irish step dancer in costume. There were approximately 150 in attendance.

On September 23 from 6-8 p.m. Trivia Night will be held in the barn.

October 21 from 1-3 p.m. Slightly Scary Stories and S'mores will be held.

December 10 from 1-3 p.m., a Holiday Open House will be held.

#### **V. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Barn Rentals. On September 26 Gary Lakowsky will have his 50<sup>th</sup> High School Reunion in the barn.
- b. NEMA and CHLO.
  - 1. Web page, Facebook and Administrator. There was nothing new to report.
- c. Historical Properties Commission. Ms. Prokop and Ms. Massung were unable to attend.

Mr. Follet was asked to give some information about himself to Commission members. He reported he lived in Wilton and worked from home. He was on the Historic Properties Commission and Chairman of the Building and Grounds Commission of his church. They received three grants which helped register the property. He is interested in the Brookside Farm Museum and looking forward to meeting everyone in person and getting involved with the Commission.

#### **IV. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION (2): Ms. Prokop moved to adjourn the August 23, 2023 Brookside Farm Museum Regular Meeting at 8:10 p.m. Seconded by Ms. Meier. (5-0) Unanimous**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Frances Gheri, Recording Secretary**

Curator's Report  
August 23, 2023

- Attended an Agricultural Commission meeting where we brainstormed about how to work together. The Commission will meet at The Barn on the third Wednesday of September.
  - Wrote a grant to the AARP for docent training.
  - Secured Linda Lacenti as a new volunteer.
  - Made presentation to East Lyme Senior Center. Hosted people for a tour afterward.
  - Continued to gather names and addresses for an annual appeal.
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- Would like to plan a capital campaign to renovate the barn, the outhouse and add a bathroom. I plan to work on that in September.
  - Cataloging will begin in September.