

BROOKSIDE FARM MUSEUM
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 27, 2024

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
EAST LYME, CT

2024 APR -1 P 3: 16

Carroll Hillier
TOWN CLERK

Present: Cheri Meier
Richard MacDonald
Wanda Stazick

Absent: William Follett

Also Present: Donna Massung, President of the Friends
Annah Perch, Curator
Jason Debble, Ex officio

- I. **CALL TO ORDER.** Ms. Meier called the March 27, 2024 Brookside Farm Museum Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
- II. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES.** The Commission was asked for additions, deletions or corrections to the February 28, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Brookside Farm Museum.

MOTION (1): Ms. Stazick moved to approve the February 28, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. Seconded by Mr. MacDonald. (3-0) Unanimous.

III. **REPORTS**

- a. **Agenda Additions.** There were no additions to the Agenda.
- b. **Public Delegations.** There were no guests.
- c. **Ex Officio.** Mr. Debble reported at the last Board of Selectmen Meeting they discussed a study on space at the Community Center. The offices in the Community Center wish to redo the outside spaces that abuts the Brookside Farm Museum. Ms. Perch added she and the Library Director have had discussion on it. Ms. Meier wondered how it would affect the Brookside Farm Museum. Mr. Debble informed the Commission Board of Selectmen meetings are on u-Tube.

Mr. Debble informed the Commission he will check on available dates for music from the Bards of Gungywamp and Bears Don't Care.

Mr. Debble stated the school and the Community Center work together.

Ms. Stazick added after the Selectmen make its decision, we can decide on our plan. Ms. Perch reported the Pollinator Garden will be extended to us.

- d. **Curator.** See attached Curator's Report. Ms. Perch informed the Commission sophomore and junior students from UCONN School of Landscape Design will give its final presentation at UCONN on April 26 at 2 p.m. They will make its recommendations on how to develop the landscape at the Brookside Farm Museum. Ms. Stazick plans to attend.

- Museum Open House Day, June 8 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Tea June 12, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
- Children’s Tea, July 17, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. \$5
- Irish Music with the Clan O’Leary Band August 18 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
- Trivia Night September 21 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
- Slightly Scary Stories & S’mores October 20 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
- Holiday Open House December 11 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

V. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Barn Rentals.** Ms. Meier reported on the following rentals: On May 17 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. for the Barn for Artistic Youth and September 28 for a wedding.
- b. **Historical Properties Commission.** Ms. Massung reported the Lee House will have its Flea Market on May 25 and May 26.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION (2): Ms. Stazick moved to adjourn the March 27, 2024 Brookside Farm Museum Meeting at 8:05 p.m. Seconded by Ms. Meier (3-0) Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Gheri, Recording Secretary

March 2024 Curator's Report
as of March 25, 2024

Summary

This report highlights successful fundraising efforts, ongoing collaborations with UConn for landscape design over time, efforts to secure funding for an intern, preservation initiatives for the Christian Freeman newspaper, securing grants for archival assessment and an interpretive plan, and organizing a book discussion group as part of the Homegrown National Park Initiative. Action items include scheduling summer music events and addressing funding for a security system.

Fundraiser Event

- February 29th at the Five Churches Restaurant.
- Successful. Recommendation to secure more events like this in the future.

Collaboration with UConn School of Landscape Design

- March 8th.
- Attended charrettes by students presenting their landscape refreshment proposals for Brookside.
- Each charette was different but included very common themes: Incorporation of the community center, school's natural landscaping, biodiversity improvement, chickens, and sustainable agriculture education.
- **Final Presentation: Scheduled for April 26th, 2 p.m. at UConn. The presentation will feature juniors building upon sophomores' work. All are welcome to attend.**

Internship Funding Effort

- Objective is to secure funding for an intern from the class, residing in Waterford, to work for 60 hours over the summer. Applied to CT Humanities and Community Foundation of Southeastern CT but was unsuccessful in obtaining the required \$1,000. Their objectives for offering the funding are different from what I approached them for.

Christian Freeman Newspaper Preservation

- Sent off for preservation and initiated discussions on treatment options, including reframing and digitization.
- Resource: Connecticut State Library offers federal-funded preservation services, primarily through digitization.

Grants and Assessments

- Connecticut Humanities Assessment Grant: Received for assessing the paper archives. The assessment, conducted by a consultant from the Connecticut State Library, will help decide on deaccessioning irrelevant pieces. This consultant also has experience working with the East Lyme Public Library and the East Lyme Historical Society so she is a great to advise on the matter of transferring archives to the library. Have started preliminary discussions, and assessment may be completed by end of April.
- Interpretive Plan Grant: Writing a grant application for \$10,000 to fund an interpretive plan by CT Humanities. Met with CT Humanities to determine if we might be successful and it was

determined we should apply. A requirement for the application is to have secured the consultant we would work with. It took a good deal of outreach before Daryn Rayman-Locke, was recommended. Daryn is very experienced in this subject matter. Daryn would prepare an interpretive plan for the museum, incorporating pre-planning features that would establish not only a narrative direction, but also identify artifacts that are of particular importance in highlighting underrepresented groups under the backdrop of the Avery, Smith, and Harris family's and also Amos Watrous who lived in the house. Dr. Raymond Locke will do a great deal of research and deliver the document along with resources for moving forward for the fee of \$10,000. Dr. Raymond Locke is an architectural historian, meeting the National Park Service and Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office requirements for architectural history.

Homegrown National Park Initiative

- Book discussion group on "Nature's Best Hope" by Doug Tallamy, starting June 12th. Doug Tallamy will join via Zoom on September 9th. Spent a good amount of time preparing the book discussion group with the library. The library will publicize the discussion group and manage sign-ups and checking out of the book. I will lead the discussion group, on the second Wednesday of each month until September.
- Prepared for the launching of the Homegrown National Park initiative on April 21.

Follow up Items

- Music Events: Obtain available dates from Jason Diebel for summer barn performances.
- Security System Funding: Determine funding source for a new security device and its monthly subscription (\$15 per device). Funding will be necessary beginning April 20.