



TOWN OF BOXBOROUGH NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING Meeting Minutes

BOARD/COMMITTEE: Steele Farm Advisory Committee

MEETING DATE: 2/11/2023

TIME: 4 p.m.

PLACE: Boxborough Historical Society Museum, Hill Road

Members Present: Melissa MacGillvray, John Skinner, Arden Veley (Clerk)

Members Absent: Chris Hydak

Other Attendees: Owen Neville

Meeting was called to order at 4:12 p.m.

- 1 Minutes of September 29, 2022 and January 7, 2023 were approved. Motion to accept by MacGillvray, seconded Skinner. Passed unanimously.
- 2 Minutes of October 25, 2022 were amended by MacGillvray: “Since Kangas (Chair) was absent, the Clerk (MacGillvray) acted as temporary Chair of the meeting. Veley acted as temporary Clerk and took notes.” Motion to accept amended minutes by Skinner, seconded by Veley. Passed unanimously.
- 3 Motion to make Veley the new Chair by Skinner, seconded by MacGillvray. Passed unanimously.
- 4 Since the passing of Jeanne Kangas there is an open position on the SFAC. Two names were mentioned as possible candidates. One candidate has already said they might consider joining the SFAC. The SFAC wanted Veley to contact another possible candidate and see if that person really was interested in joining the SFAC.
- 5 The SFAC discussed a possible new selectboard warrant for the May Town meeting. This Warrant would ask the Town to ok \$10,000 to hire a contractor to study the feasibility of putting the Museum in the Steele Farm house and to use the current Museum for town offices or other Town uses.
- 6 A handout of the actual wording of “Article 6: Community Preservation Fund-Historic Resources-Preservation of Steele Farm House” (\$224,264 from the reserve/general fund, \$85,736 from the historic resources reserve for a total of \$310,000) was handed out and discussed. It was agreed Hydak would give the actual 10 minute power point presentation to the Town Meeting in May. It was agreed the other members of the SFAC would help Hydak in putting together this presentation. It was hoped Hydak would come to the next SFAC with a basic idea on the content of the presentation. It was agreed that an effort should be made to find historic photos of this farmhouse. Veley pointed out that FinCom had asked him to appear before that Committee to discuss Article 6 on 2/21 at Town Hall around 7:30. Veley asked Skinner if he would join him at this meeting. Skinner, being a lifelong contractor, was the one who did the coast analysis of repairing the outside envelope.

- 7** Now that the Town has a new position, Buildings and Grounds, it appears that the electric bill and all maintenance costs, will be taken care of by Buildings and Grounds. It appears that the only budget in 2024 for Steele Farm will be the Revolving Fund. Veley has contacted the Town Account to ask if the above is true.
- 8** Old business: Veley reported that he did a search of several nurseries who specialize in Christmas seedlings and basically all are sold out for the 2023 spring planting season. Veley also reported that Mr. Doe, of Harvard's Doe Orchard, might sell the SFAC some large plugs (roots surrounded by dirt and around 10 inches high) in April of 2023, if he has any surplus. Probably the best thing to do is to order large plugs this coming September or October of 2023 for planting in spring of 2024.
- 9** Next meeting date: Thursday, March 2nd at 7 p.m. at the museum.
- 10** Meeting adjourned at 5:06. Motion MacGillvray, seconded Skinner. Passed unanimously.