



TOWN OF BOXBOROUGH NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING Meeting Minutes

Board/Committee: Steele Farm Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: February 17, 2021

Time: 7:30PM

Location: ZOOM Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:38 PM by Chair Ed Whitcomb. Present by roll call: Ed Whitcomb, Sarah Murphy, Clerk Jeanne Kangas, John Skinner, and Select Board liaison Bob Stemple. Cheryl Mahoney participated.

- Minutes. Motion: Ed moved and Sarah seconded that the Minutes of the January 13, 2021 meeting be approved. Those present unanimously VOTED Yes by roll call.
- Progress on Preservation of Farmhouse. Jeanne stated that we should get going on Phase II. Ed noted there's some concern that a purpose/use hasn't been clear, but it's time to go ahead. Bob stated if we want to go ahead, then go ahead.
- Pollinator Garden. Sarah reports it'll be located in a circle horseshoe shape near the harrow at the wall from down and back along the stone wall. On April 3rd we would layout the garden and cover it with paper bags and wood chips to smother the grass; and plant it on June 5 or 12. Jeanne added we would choose the plants and ask locals, including the Garden Club members for plant donations, and buy the rest as needed.
- Other Business.
 - a. Farmhouse Preservation. More discussion arose. Ed commented that during Phase I the contractor, CBC, stopped talking with him. Bob said CBC should talk with the Town and with Rajon Hudson, the new Assistant Town Manager, to avoid confusion and clarify goals and objectives re materials, etc.; and that there's no money this year. Look to the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) for funds. Ed stated that using the farmhouse as part of the museum makes sense. Sarah noted it would be minimally used and some stuff in the barn could be moved. Jeanne said Phase II is needed in FY2023 to finish saving it and then work on specific uses. Ed said Phase II will complete the outside of the house, the chimney, the windows and roof. Maybe \$425,000 cost. Sarah stated we need to save the building; that future use is not relevant now, and we need to complete the stabilization. Bob noted that if the old library building is freed up to repurpose for more Town use, there'd be two purposes. Ed suggested we think on this and bring it to our next meeting.
 - b. Farm Maintenance Plan. Ed will prepare a list for the next meeting, to guide us and the DPW and bring to our next meeting. He noted the southside of the barn foundation has cracks that need attention, and the north and east sides of the icehouse need re-shingling. Shingles are upstairs over the doorway.
 - c. New member needed. Sarah suggested several names, as the person Jeanne contacted has not replied after several communications.
 - d. Volunteer Mornings. Ed stated we should mulch around our Xmas trees. April 24th was chosen.
 - e. Tapping Maple Trees. Ed moved to allow Than and Sarah to tap the Maple trees again this year. Jeanne seconded. Voted unanimously by roll call vote.
- Adjournment. At 9:04 PM. Motion: Sarah, seconded by Jeanne. VOTED unanimously by roll call.

- Next Meeting. It will be another ZOOM meeting on March 17, 2021.

EXHIBITS USED

1. Agenda

-Jeanne Kangas, Clerk

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