



**TOWN OF BOXBOROUGH
NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
Meeting Minutes**

BOARD/COMMITTEE: Steele Farm Advisory Committee

MEETING DATE: March 2, 2022

TIME: 7:53 p.m.

PLACE: Via Zoom (Hosted by Richard Hilton)

Members Present: Jeanne Kangas (Chair), Arden Veley (Acting Clerk), John Skinner

Members Absent: Melissa MacGillvray

Other Attendees: Sarah Murphy, Richard Hilton, Christopher Hydak

#1 Minutes of January 26, 2022: Skinner motioned that the minutes be accepted as is. Seconded by Veley. Passed unanimously.

#2 Status of New Pine Woods Trail: Tom Bieber, Board member of the Boxborough Conservation Trust, will get a work party together to clear out major obstructions. On April 29, under the guidance of Tom Bieber and a member of the SFAC, a volunteer group of seniors from AB High School will “rake” and install trail markers.

#3 DPW Assistance in Maintenance of Trails and Farmlands and Purchasing Christmas Trees: The vendor in Western Ma., where the DPW previously purchased Christmas tree saplings, is all sold out for this planting season. For the 2023 planting of Christmas tree saplings, it is necessary to contact the nursery and find out when is a good time to place the order. A group of AB senior volunteers on April 29, under the guidance of a SFAC member, will cut out the old stumps of previously cut Christmas trees. Jeanne talked to Ed Whitcomb and he informed her he is no longer involved in trail maintenance at Steele Farm. Ken Whitcomb will continue to mow only in spring and possibly in the fall. The SFAC will need to come up with a plan for the mowing of the green, grassy areas, which include trails, around Christmas trees and the Boy Scout camping area.

#4 Preservation of the Levi Wetherbee (Steele) Farmhouse: Skinner, after studying the 2016 Red Hawk and the 2017 CBI preservation plans for the farmhouse, will do a specification/materials cost estimate in regard to materials needed to repair the outside envelope (roof, chimney, siding, windows, doors). Once this is completed, Kangas will ask the Town building inspector to estimate labor costs.

#5 Restoring the Old Apple Trees: A work party will tag the trees that we want pruned. Once that is done a date to do the pruning will be set up with Chris Green of Westward Orchards.

#6 Old Business: Skinner will meet with Josh Hasenfus, an employee of The Trustees, to study the parking area at Steele Fam and make possible suggestions for improvement.

#7 New Business: A motion, “To allow Sarah Murphy and family to tap maple trees at Steele Farm” was made by Veley and seconded by Skinner. It passed unanimously. With Sarah’s retiring from the Committee, a vacancy needs filling. Christopher Hydak said he would be willing to apply. Hydak will fill out the volunteer form on the Town website and Kangas will notify Diana Lipari, our Select Board liaison.

The next SFAC meeting will be via Zoom on March 30 at 7 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:36 p.m. Motion by Skinner, seconded by Veley, passed unanimously.