

TOWN OF BOXBOROUGH

Steele Farm Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of March 22, 2016

Meeting was called to order by Chair, Ed Whitcomb at 7:05 PM at the Town Hall. Attending were members Jeanne Steele Kangas, and Bruce Hager Absent: member Jim Moss and Selectman Bob Stemple.

Minutes. The Minutes of our February 23, 2016 were adopted as revised and presented.

Barn organizational layout. Ed Whitcomb met with Norm Hanover and started reorganizing the contents of the barn and cleaning out items not usable and unlikely to be useable in the future. A layout of the barn floors with proposed use areas is in process.

Professional Evaluation of Farmhouse re Long term maintenance/restoration. Ed, Bruce and Jim Plan to meet with the Building Inspector, Gerry Noel, and Karl Packard of Red Hawk Studio of Concord, MA tomorrow to show Packard the building and discuss the scope of the project, to generate and estimate to return the Farmhouse to structural integrity and protect it from further deterioration. We have not heard back from CBI of Boston, or from Finch & Rose of Beverly.

Involving the Friends of Steele Farm in Ongoing Farm maintenance. Ed stated that we have three different projects where volunteer help is needed:

1. Christmas trees. Help is needed during May, June, July and October to mow around the trees, and to prune them in July or August.
2. Apple trees. Pruning and clearing around the trees to restore them and keep them healthy is needed, probably mid-winter, January through March.
3. Clearing invasive plants and trail maintenance. We need to take a plan of the land and mark the areas where removal of invasive plants is most needed. Clearing of trails is fairly obvious.

Also discussed is hosting a social for the Friends or other meeting, and to seek help with some foundation plants and flowers at the Farmhouse.

Grant money possibilities.

We briefly discussed the possibilities, including DCR's Partnerships Matching Funds program that could help with removal of invasive plants and possibly signage for educational purposes, among other projects. Further research is needed.

Old Business.

- Picnic Tables. We have installed two picnic tables near the driveway and Maple trees for folks to sit and enjoy the view or have a picnic. Discussed ideas of some benches at overlooks, and possibly memorial bench opportunities for donor(s) to contribute. Members will research possibilities and report at our next meeting.
- Dog Waste. This perennial problem was again discussed. The Town has a Bylaw we

think. Jeanne will contact the Animal Inspector regarding what enforcement might be available; and we will consider better or more signage.

New Business.

- Local Business wants to send volunteers. The Town Clerk reached Ed regarding AMD on Central Street in Boxborough, which wants to provide volunteers to the Town, perhaps to help on the Farm on Tuesday-Thursday, May 3-5. Help with invasive plant removal or clearing around the apple and Christmas trees is needed. Ed to follow up.
- Spring Volunteer Day. We have to move the fire pit, and the spruce trees at the copse of trees in the field needs the vines removed. AMD volunteers may be able to do some of that work. The date for our Spring Volunteer Day will be determined at our next meeting.

Next Meeting. April 19 at 7 PM at Town Hall.

Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Jeanne Steele Kangas, Clerk

Minutes VOTED: April 19, 2016