

TOWN OF BOXBOROUGH

Steele Farm Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes of June 21, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:35PM by Chair Ed Whitcomb. Attending were members Bruce Hager, Jim Moss, and Ed Whitcomb. Absent were Jeanne Steele Kangas and ex-officio member Bob Stemple. Also attending was Owen Neville, who had business with the Committee.

Farm House Repairs Following a discussion of potential contractors to prepare an estimate of necessary repairs and costs, the members present voted unanimously to recommend to the BoS architects Red Hawk Studio of Concord. Ed Whitcomb advised that if sufficient funds are available, the work could begin before the BHSI's two-year fund-raising campaign is completed.

Tree Trimming After discussion it was decided to call a work party to trim Christmas trees on Saturday, June 25, at 9 am. Ed will contact Jeanne to send a request to the Friends of Steele Farm email list.

Election of Officers Following nominations and discussion, those attending unanimously elected the following officers for FY17: Chairman, Ed Whitcomb; Clerk, Bruce Hager.

Mowing Ed has discussed with the DPW the mowing of several grassy areas on the upland on a rotation schedule. Ken Whitcomb has already mowed the Christmas trees three times this season. Ed used a brush hog to mow areas which were partially cleared of invasives by 8th graders last October, and Ken will now mow these areas when he does the trees. He has also been mowing the Boy Scouts camping area, which was greatly appreciated by the Scouts during their recent campout.

Dog Waste Ed has created a second sign asking the public to clean up dog waste, and has been moving it periodically, in an attempt to attract the attention of visitors to Steele Farm. Jim remarked that he had observed less dog waste near the main trail, which may indicate that the signage is having a positive result.

Stairway in Barn Loft Owen Neville suggested that movement of persons and items to and from the Barn loft would be safer if a stairway were built at the rear of the main bay, as opposed to the present unsecured ladder. This was discussed by the members with general agreement that the idea is worth pursuing.

Fee for Group Activities at Steele Farm There was some discussion regarding the desirability of having a fee schedule for occasions when groups from outside Boxborough wish to hold events at the Farm.

Porta-potty Alternatives The prior topic led to discussion of the requirement that groups must provide portable toilet facilities for their activities on the property, and whether some permanent facility might be provided, such as a composting toilet.

Parking Area Drainage There was a discussion about possible methods to alleviate heavy runoff from downpours, which causes erosion of the berm at the head of the main trail.

Adjournment The meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM.