



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

BOARD/COMMITTEE: Steel Farm Advisory Committee

MEETING DATE: March 2, 2023

TIME: 7:00 PM

PLACE: Boxborough Historical Society Museum, 575 Middle Road, Boxborough, MA

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

1. **Approve minutes of February 11th:** John made a motion to approve and Christopher seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.
2. **Elect a new Clerk: Melissa is stepping down as Clerk.** Christopher has volunteered to be Clerk. John made a motion for Christopher to become Clerk, Arden seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.
3. **Suggestions for possible new members of the SFAC:** Melissa suggested one of the Sjoblom family might be interested. She will reach out to them.
4. **Discussion on how to promote Phase II (repair outer envelope of the farmhouse)**
 - a. **Prepare a Powerpoint presentation for the Town Meeting in May**
Christopher will get a rough draft and he present at the next SFAC meeting
 - b. **Individual talking points**
We discussed other opportunities at the meeting outside of Christopher's presentation that we might add some additional talking points. We will discuss these at the next meeting as well.
 - c. **New Town warrant to study uses of Museum and Farmhouse**
Arden made a motion to officially recommend the passage of the Steel Farmhouse and Steel Farm Barn warrant article. Christopher seconded the motion. Arden, Melissa, and Christopher vote Aye. John abstained.
5. **Current Status of the Steele Farm budget and possible future expenditures:**
 - We have a little over \$5k in the revolving fund.
 - Towards the end of the FY, we could move money from the electric budget to general fund
 - There is \$700 left in the B&M budget for the FY and let's assume \$300 from the electric budget, that can be moved). Arden suggests we do the following:
 - Doggy bags (\$70)

- Doggy bag dispenser (\$250)
- In the past, we voted \$400 for xmas tree saplings. A few options:
 - Bare root xmas trees: \$5.45 (50) for about \$250 and shipping \$40
 - Doe Orchard in Harvard. He orders more than he needs. Arden to call in April
 - Arden to try <https://www.fedcoseeds.com/trees/>, online order
 - One of the sugar maps we planted,
 - Arden will order 50 bare root for delivery the week before Arbor day, the 28th of April. We decided to do this. No vote was needed because we had already voted on this in a previous meeting.

6. Old Business.

a. Purchase Christmas tree saplings, ice, and the well

As discussed in the previous section, we tasked Arden with ordering the 50 bare root saplings. We will plant them in the lower xmas tree lot. We will need to saw the old stumps down to the ground and then dig 50 holes to plant the saplings. Christopher volunteered to do that work

7. New Business:

a. New positions of Buildings and Grounds and projects we might consider (e.g., cutting trees out of the back foundation, trimming branches close to the barn, etc.)

The new Building and Grounds department (Francis Flynn) can help us, but we need to be judicious. Arden suggests cleaning up the pond. There is a tree at the end of the barn, which needs to go too. Sometimes when the weather gets better, we should discuss reasonable requests. There is a huge pine tree that came down where the boy scouts camp. Perhaps we can ask for that to be cleared as well.

b. Possible volunteer work projects: AB Seniors getting rid of old Christmas tree stumps

Christopher offered to do this work, but if the troop could help, that would be great. The timing might not be great since the saplings must be in the ground a week after their arrival.

8. Next Meeting Date: The SFAC will meet next on March 23rd 2023.

9. Adjournment: John proposed adjournment at 8:35 PM, seconded by Arden. All in favor. The motion passed.