

## Bolton Heritage Farm Commission

### Regular Meeting

### Meeting of August 6, 2018

The Bolton Heritage Farm Commission held its regular meeting on August 6, 2018 at the Notch Road Municipal Center, Rm 9. Members in attendance were Chair Arlene Fiano, Beth Harney, Rhea Klein and Ann Maulucci and Alternate Bonnie Massey. Building and Grounds Supervisor John Butrymovich was also present, as were Bolton residents Ruth Hoffman, Jeanne Webb and Richard Treat. Commission Alternates Jon Treat and Raymond Marrion were not in attendance.

1. **Call to order** by Arlene Fiano at 7:04 PM. Officer elections were held immediately. Arlene Fiano and Beth Harney were re-elected as chair and vice-chair respectively in a unanimous vote.
  
2. **Approval of Minutes of July 2, 2018** - corrections:
  - a. Under section 4 - Correspondence, 2<sup>nd</sup> bullet, spelling of the word 'Tricentennial' was corrected.
  - b. Under section 5A - Farm Maintenance, Repair Projects, 5<sup>th</sup> bullet, the first sentence should read "The foundation on the west side of the barn is next to be fixed."
  - c. Under section B - Update on Fund Raising, 1<sup>st</sup> bullet, the word 'pictures' is replaced with the word 'artwork' to better describe the contrast with photographs.
  - d. Under section F, 2018 Farmers Market/ Antique Tractor and Truck Display, there should be a period mark at the end of the sentence that reads "EDC may be interested in participating this year."

Rhea moved that the minutes be approved with these corrections, Ann seconded, the motion passed with Beth abstaining due to absence at that meeting.

3. **Resident's Forum** - although several residents were present at the meeting, all preferred to speak on items already on the agenda.
  
4. **Correspondence**
  - a. Susan Depold wrote a thank you letter to Country Carpenters for their work and donated materials used in replacement of the porch.
  - b. Beth sent a thank you note to Chip and Lisa White, who donated all of the old-style glass panes after closing their business for use at the farm when windows are being replaced. The panes are stored at the farmhouse.

- c. Tony Girasoli sent a request that the scouts be allowed to use the farm for two events, which were welcomed by the commission:
  - i. August 18<sup>th</sup> - an evening star watch during the Perseid Meteor shower
  - ii. October 14<sup>th</sup> - a model rocket launching event
- d. Beth sent an email request to Todd Levine from the CT Trust for Historic Preservation and Cathy Labadia, director of the W3R, inviting them to tour the farm, in the hopes that they could assist us in obtaining funds for some interpretive signage to highlight the historical, religious, and natural features of the farm. A date for the visit has been set for September 12<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 PM. Commission members were invited to attend.
- e. The Giglio farmers have complained about the current beekeeper's practice of driving across the hayfield to reach the hives, as it damages the hay. Several attempts to get the parties together to resolve this have been unsuccessful. Ray Marrion has assured us that the current location is fine for now, but the situation needs to be resolved before next season.
- f. The commission has been invited to participate in an Ice Cream Social at the East Windsor Historical Society property on Saturday August 11<sup>th</sup>. Nancy Masters organizes this event for local history groups to publicize their projects, which is free to the public and participants. Several commission members will attend, and Arlene has been making presentation materials and a new banner for the farm. We are able to sell our cards and mugs, along with books on Bolton History, and the proceeds can go to the farm.

## 5. Unfinished Business

- a. **Farm Maintenance and Repair Projects** - John reported that the driveway and parking area will be repaired with millings from recent repaving on Bolton Center Road. The town crew has completed the painting of the porch, which looks fantastic. Chuck Zeppa has finished the foundation work, and the town crew replaced a sill that was in need of repairs. The Weather Underground link is up on the town website. The next project to be completed at the barn is the handicap access ramp, and John will contact Sara Nelson to begin design. Arlene requested that the commission be granted some input into the design, as she would like to protect visibility of the silo foundations that are currently exposed on the west side of the barn, which is where the ramp will need to go.
- b. **Update on fundraising** - Beth reported that there is currently \$1921.99 in the 'Pennies for the Porch' account, which was not tapped for that project as it was funded with donations by Country Carpenters and town capital funds. Funds currently in the Rosie the Cow account will be transferred over when Sandy has a chance. The town is holding \$47,000 in the Heritage Farm Fund (HFF) for repair, maintenance and improvement projects at the farm. Some of these funds are earmarked for spraying of the stone walls at the farm, but John told us that that practice is problematic, as residents are opposed to the use of pesticides on the farm, and the practice may be abandoned after the next round this fall.

Jeanne Webb will research any available grants for ADA projects like the handicap ramp that are available to municipalities, in addition to other possible grant sources. She has experience with this process and is willing to help with grant identification and submissions. Rhea is also willing to write for grant monies once sources are identified. The town has \$37k remaining from the fire restoration bond. John will check on any restrictions within the bond on how these funds can be used, as there are several projects at the house that are pending funding. If restricted to the barn, we can identify other projects for that.

- c. **Student/ School participation/ Educational Programs** - Rhea will be the instructor for an evening yoga series at the farm on the Tuesdays in August. There are some signs up at various places around town and it is advertised on Facebook. She commented that it was a challenge to secure permission from the town due to some insurance issues that are now resolved.
- d. **Future Use of the Farm House** - Jeanne Webb spoke of her interest in seeing the farmhouse become an established gathering place for Bolton residents. Arlene agreed, commenting that most of the requests that come to us concerning use of the farm are for an event venue - weddings, parties, dances, etc. The barn is closer than ever, but still lacks water and sanitation, power, parking, access and management/ coordination for such a use. The commission will focus on bringing the house to a weathertight condition, and slowly trying to upgrade it for support uses to the barn as the primary event space - maybe as a catering kitchen, bride's space or meeting room/ storage. The house needs a new roof and repairs to the foundation, and new windows/sills, which cannot be replaced until the second layer of siding is removed. During their work on the porch, County Carpenters reported that the structure appears to be sound, but there is nothing inside the house that is worth saving, and the interiors could be gutted as a first step towards a master plan. All of this work is contingent on funding, which has yet to be identified.
- e. **Policy for Use of the farm by organized groups** - nothing to report at this time.
- f. **Farmers Market/ Antique Truck and Tractor Show 2018** - The show is planned for August 26, 2018 from 9-1 at the Gazebo. Arlene distributed flyers and signs for members to post. Participants have been contacted, but Arlene requested some assistance from members to contact town organizations to confirm attendance. Arlene met with the new sanitarian, Diane Colello, for guidelines for a tasting tent, and we will be hosting that for the first time this year. John will coordinate Rosie, BHF tables, tested water source for the tasting tent, trash containers, port-a-potty and other details. Bill Anderson from the Economic Development Commission will contact local restaurants to attend and defray the cost of the permit if they choose to participate. Eventually, we would like the assistance of the EDC to turn this event into a town celebration of local businesses, and the EDC has agreed to update their list to help in contacting them.
- g. **2020 Town Celebration** - Next meeting is September 18<sup>th</sup>. The commission is hoping to have a re-enactment on the farm for Columbus Day weekend.

- h. **2018 Heritage Day Celebration** - nothing to report at this time
- i. **Social Media\ Town Website Updates\ BHF History Presentation\ documentary** - Gwen provided a copy of the slideshow presentation on the farm from 2000 - 2016 and Arlene would like to adapt it for other uses, incorporating slides and commentary. She would also like to have more pictures to continue the slideshow and for the town website, which has recently been updated. Rhea agreed to put the word out on FB - Everything Bolton to request farm photos.
- j. **Shovel Ready Projects** - John will begin coordination of the ramp project. We need further discussion on the 'Donate a Window' campaign and the farmhouse roof project.
- k. **BHF Memorial Master Plan** - John believes that the plan was approved at the July Selectmen's meeting.

## 6. New Business

- a. **Discussion of future grants, repair opportunities** - see above.
- b. **Other**
  - i. Bonnie brought in several watercolors of the farm she has painted to be used for our next card series. She will have them made into 5X7 cards for sale, possibly for the farmer's market in late August.
  - ii. Richard commented that the amount of dog waste, even with the signs and bags available at the farm, is getting worse. The commission agreed to step up the campaign on FB to remind dog walkers to carry out their dog waste from the trail.
  - iii. Richard also commented that he would like to see the Farmer's Market moved to the farm. Although the commission agrees it would be a goal, the timing in late August conflicts with the corn and hay season, and currently the farm's access and driveway is difficult for the antique vehicles to navigate. There is also insufficient parking at the farm. It is our hope that once we outgrow the gazebo area we can put some pressure on the town to implement the town center master plan.
  - iv. Richard alerted John to boardwalk boards in need of replacement at the farm, and the remains of an ash tree along the trail that is on top of a stonewall in the woods and should be removed.

## 7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth Harney, vice chairwoman

PLEASE SEE THE MINTUES OF SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS FOR THE APPROVAL OF THESE MINTUES  
AND ANY CORRECTIONS HERETO.