

## **Bolton Heritage Farm Commission**

### **Regular Meeting**

**Meeting of Monday January 7, 2019**

**NRMC, Room 9, 7:00 PM**

The Bolton Heritage Farm Commission held its regular meeting on January 7, 2019 at the Notch Road Municipal Center, Rm 9. Members in attendance were Chair Arlene Fiano, Beth Harney, Rhea Klein and Ann Maulucci, Cara Wraight and Alternate Bonnie Massey. Building and Grounds Supervisor John Butrymovich was also present, as were Bolton residents Jacqueline Steele and Edward Steele. Commission Alternates Jon Treat and Raymond Marrion were not in attendance.

1. **Call to order** by Arlene Fiano at 7:04 PM.

2. **Approval of Minutes of December 3, 2018**

Beth moved that the minutes be approved as written, Ann seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

3. **Resident's Forum**

- a. Life scout Edward Steele requested an opportunity to complete an eagle scout project at the farm. He is interested in creating a landscaped bed between the two driveway entrances off of Bolton Center Road, a project previously identified by the commission. Arlene and John will meet with him at the end of February to discuss the logistics of creating a landscape bed in that area, which may include replacing soils, building up a raised bed that allows for proper sightlines in either direction, and plantings that will be attractive during the entire growing season. As per the approved Memorial Garden guidelines, the garden will be designed to be self-sustaining once it has been established. Edward is currently 15 years old and has several years to complete his project, allowing him and the commission to create a stunning garden during 2019 that will enhance the farm for the Bolton Tricentennial Celebrations, and for years to come.

4. **Correspondence**

- a. John received a package from the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism containing the updated Washington Rochambeau Revolutionary Route brochures, which we requested at our last meeting in September. Beth will send a TY note to Cathy Labadia, and give her a brief update on our current projects, with a request to keep us informed of any grant opportunities available at the state level.

5. **Unfinished Business**

- a. **Farm Maintenance and Repair Projects** - John reported that the farm fields were being mowed and walls cleared as weather permitted. The only areas remaining are near the woods, where it has been too wet to mow. Dzen Sheet Metal Contractors has submitted a quote for replacing the roof on the house for an estimated \$20,000, which includes replacement of plywood underlayment and decking where needed. John will secure the additional quotes necessary to bring this project to the board of Selectmen. Funding sources were discussed, including Heritage Farm Funds, grant opportunities (which will require matching funds) and the possibility of the Bolton Historical Society contribution, which has been earmarked for necessary work on the farmhouse. Discussions to continue in coming months.
- b. **Update on fundraising** - Beth reported that there is currently \$3,310 in the 'Pennies for Preservation' account held at United Bank. The town is holding \$47,000 in the Heritage Farm Fund (HFF) for repair, maintenance and improvement projects at the farm. Beth deposited the last funds received for cards and mugs into the town fund in late December. Susan Depold gave Ann two containers of coins for additional deposit. [After the meeting, Arlene received our \$200 prize from the BCC, which will also be deposited into the town fund]. Cara indicated she has some fundraising ideas, which we are always looking for, and will be included in discussions at our business plan meeting in February.

All members were encouraged to research and contact their sources to look for grant funds or fundraising ideas. *[From August 2018 minutes - Jeanne Webb had agreed to 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 has a meeting set up with teachers at the Bolton Schools at the end of January to discuss curriculum opportunities to highlight the farm. Although the town has adopted the National Standards in generating curriculum, these guidelines are conceptual and can be enhanced with local features.
- d. **Future Use of the Farm House** - to be discussed at the February meeting.
- e. **Policy for Use of the farm by organized groups** - nothing to report at this time.
- f. **BCC Christmas Tree Event** - The tree was removed and stored with Rosie for next year's celebration. Many thanks to the commission members who worked on the submission, which won 2<sup>nd</sup> prize in the table top division and a \$200 prize. Several ideas were discussed for next year's tree, including a fun fact/ Did You Know concept about farm history and current usage - to be continued.

- g. **2020 Town Celebration** - Arlene reported that the planning committee is working on logo development and fundraising, and a master calendar of events. They have requested that the BHFC organize a re-enactment on the farm for Heritage weekend to coincide with the parade, which will occur on October 3 with a rain date Oct. 4, 2020. While this will take a tremendous amount of planning and organization, not to mention additional funds, we know that the re-enactors would love to return to the farm, previous experiences with Hurricane Irene notwithstanding. Arlene will prepare an outline of what is needed based on her notes from last time for the commission to discuss and evaluate, as time is critical to invite participants, who schedule events several years in advance.
- h. **Social Media\ Town Website Updates\ BHF History Presentation\ documentary** - no progress at this time.

## 6. New Business

### a. Other

- i. Bonnie and Cliff Massey have several birdhouses to install at the farm and requested permission to do so, which was easily granted. Arlene also has some she will contribute.
- ii. It was agreed by the BHFC that February's meeting will be dedicated to working on a Business Plan for the farm. In order to allow the most commission members to attend, Arlene has moved the meeting to Monday February 11, 2019, NRMC, Room 9, 7:00 PM. Beth will prepare a preliminary outline of what our business plan should include in preparation for the meeting. John will bring a projector so that we can document and discuss all concepts.

## 7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth Harney, vice chairwoman

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