

Heritage Farm Commission

Regular Meeting

July 6, 2020

The Bolton Heritage Farm Commission held its regular meeting on July 6, 2020 at the farm. The meeting was intended to be a tour of current conditions but due to inclement weather, was held in the milk shed. All in attendance practiced social distancing and wore masks for the duration of the meeting. Members in attendance were Chairman Arlene Fiano, Rhea Klein, Cara Wraight, Ann Maulucci and Beth Harney. Building and grounds supervisor John Butrymovich was also present. Historic society alternate Bonnie Massey was in attendance, as well as Gary Silver, Town of Bolton Media Coordinator. Jon Treat and Raymond Marrion were not in attendance.

1. Call to order

Arlene called the meeting to order at 6:20 P.M, with a gorgeous rainbow to the east after a heavy downpour delayed our original start.

2. Election of Officers for Fiscal Year 2021

Rhea nominated Arlene Fiano to continue as chair, Beth Harney to continue as vice-chair and treasurer for the upcoming fiscal year. Both accepted their nominations. Cara moved the nominations to a vote; Ann provided a second. Passed unanimously.

3. Approval of Minutes June 1, 2020

The minutes were read by the chair, and the following corrections were suggested:

- Section C. Update on Fund Raising – ‘Cara’ was corrected to read ‘**Jenna Matos**’.
- Section G. Social Media/ Town Website Updates – corrected to read...” Rhea stated that the Heritage Farm town ‘**web**’ page...
- Section I. 2020 Farmers Market – corrected to read...” Arlene also ‘**stated**’... instead of ‘started’.

Beth moved that the minutes be accepted with corrections, the motion was seconded by Rhea, passed unanimously.

4. Resident’s Forum (Public Comment for Items NOT on the Agenda)

Nothing at this time

5. Correspondence

The 2020 Summer Race Series - Debbie Livingston will hold the summer race series beginning July 15th, running every Wednesday evening until August 12th. In an accommodation to Covid 19, there will be no slotted times for each age group; runners will run the course at their own time and pace between 5 and 8 PM, self-time and self-report their races.

Joey Griffin, a boy scout with Troop 73, posted a nature trail signage program to identify flora at the farm visible along the trail. He requested that those who enjoyed the information please leave their name and comments. Joey intended to leave the signs up for only a few hours, but it was so popular that he left them in place. The commission agreed it was a terrific enhancement to the Rose Trail.

Arlene has been in contact with Sandy Pierog concerning the Board of Selectmen re-appointment of commission members, which will take place at the July 7th BOS meeting. Since one of our alternates has not attended a meeting in over a year, he will be informed that he will not be re-appointed, and an alternate vacancy will occur. In answer to our question concerning the residency of the Bolton Historical Society [BHS] member, any member appointed by the Historic Society to fill any seat as member or alternate must be an elector of the town of Bolton and not a resident of another town. At this time Ann Maulucci will remain as the BHS member and Bonnie will remain as individual alternate.

6. Publicity and Communications/Gary Silver – Promotion of Farmers Market and Tricentennial Encampment

Gary is a recent UCONN graduate who has been hired by the town to promote Bolton and its events via social media and the town's website. He can be reached at media@boltonct.org. Throughout the meeting we discussed opportunities to have Gary assist in promoting the farm and its activities, like the Summer Cross Country Race Series, Yoga at the farm, Farmer's Market and our Re-enactment.

7. Change of August meeting date

Rhea is hosting Yoga at the Farm on the first four Monday evenings in August at 6:30 PM. In order to make the night available for all members to attend without conflict, it was agreed that we would change our August meeting date from Monday August 3rd to Wednesday August 5th.

8. Unfinished Business

- A. **NPS/ W3R Interpretive Signage** – Funds that were expected from the National Park Service [NPS] in mid-June have not arrived yet. On further investigation, our NPS contact indicated that funds are available, but cannot be sent directly to the town, and must first be forwarded to the WARO group. This temporary setback has caused the delay. Rhea asked to see the formal correspondence detailing how the money will be transferred. Josh Kelly, Sandy Pierog and Arlene will meet in the coming days to determine where the local (10-mile radius) wayfinding signs should be placed directing the public to the farm. Our NPS representative will then be contacted to request a restart to the interpretive signage process. Once monies have been received we can engage the graphic design and production, hopefully prior to the planned re-enactment in early October.
- B. **Farm Maintenance and Repair** – John reported that mowing and haying continue in the fields, with Rockland Farms taking a second cutting of hay this week. The stone walls have been sprayed per the contract requirements and look very clean. John made note of the Summer Running Series dates to coordinate mowing.

- C. **Update on Fund Raising** – The balance in the Heritage Farm Fund is \$35,979.98, reduced by \$3500 from last month for wall spraying contract payment. The balance in the fund raiser account is \$3,621.
- D. **Student/ School Participation/ Education Programs** – Nothing to report
- E. **Future Use of the Farmhouse** – Nothing to report
- F. **2020 Tri-Centennial Celebration** – The BOS will make a final decision at the July 7th meeting about whether the October Living History Encampment can proceed safely in this year of Covid 19. Sandy has been present at all meetings and Zoom calls with the re-enactment participants and can brief the selectmen on details, but at the end of the day the decision will be made with the attendees and the town’s safety in mind. As so many of the events have been cancelled for this year, it is likely that all 300 events will be rescheduled for 2021, and the Re-enactment may meet the same fate.

G. Social Media/ Town Website Updates – Gary Silver was asked to post information about the Connecticut Preservation Creative Places Barn photo contest. Arlene will forward the email link for Gary’s use. The barn photo contest is open to all, the deadline for submission is August 24th. With the Heritage Farm the object of so many spectacular photographs on Facebook the BHF Commission would love to see these photos entered in the competition. Rhea stated that the town’s Heritage Farm page has not been updated since March. Gary agreed to take this on, and to create a hashtag - #HeritageFarmPhotos – to encourage others to tag their photos of the farm.

H. Eagle Scout Project Update – After our last meeting, Arlene was in contact with Eddie Steele, confirmed that his project was approved by the BOS and work has begun on transforming the triangle in front of the driveways.

I. 2020 Farmers Market – Beth sent printed invitations and posters to 71 organizations, businesses and truck/ tractor/ farm equipment owners on June 15th. To date we have had a good response from invitees, and still have the green light from the town to continue planning the event, as Farmer’s Markets have been classed as essential businesses. Together the commission divided up the list of potential participants and will follow up to determine who will attend prior to the next meeting. Beth will circulate contact information not provided on the mailing list if available. Gary was asked to create a Facebook event and invite all local businesses with a FB page to attend/ share. We will discuss more logistics and Covid guidelines at our August meeting.

J. Survey and Planning Grant – We have received the Master Plan Proposal from Nelson Edwards; Arlene will forward to all who did not see the original email. Josh will coordinate a Zoom meeting to review the proposal with Sandy and the commission members who are available. There was some discussion about the proposal Alternate to determine the site of the original foundation through the use of Ground Penetrating Radar, but more discussion is needed.

K. Other - Nothing at this time

9. New Business

A. Other - Nothing at this time

10. Adjournment

Rhea moved to adjourn the meeting and Cara seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth Ann Harney, vice chair

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