

Heritage Farm Commission
Regular Meeting
January 3, 2022

The Bolton Heritage Farm Commission held its regular meeting on January 3, 2022 at 7:00PM via Zoom. Members in attendance were chair Arlene Fiano, vice chair Beth Harney, Rhea Klein, Cara Wraight, Leslie Shea and Ann Maulucci. New pending Commission alternate Paula Lynn was also in attendance, and Bolton resident Tom Tierney. Steve Gardner, who will be coordinating our 2022 Re-enactment, was also in attendance. Building and grounds supervisor John Butrymovich, and Bolton Historic Commission alternate Bonnie Massey were not present.

1. Call to order

Arlene called the meeting to order at 7:06 P.M. Arlene welcomed new member Leslie Shea and pending alternate Paula Lynn to the commission, commenting that this is the first time in a long time that we have a full slate of members, and how grateful we are to all.

2. Approval of the minutes of November 1, 2021

Corrections:

- Section 5d – 2nd sentence – replace ‘him’ with ‘he’.
- Phase I, 2nd sentence – replace ‘the’ design with ‘their’ design.
- And the final sentence should read ‘Phase 1 also includes realigning the parking area to the South of the barn and fixing the silo roof; making the old manure area safer; finding a temporary tent location North of the barn; and locating a porta potty location.’
- Phase II, should read ‘This phase includes mown pathways and a simple rustic bridge connecting town hall and the farm; a mown amphitheater in coordination with haying season which will be natural and seasonal; a utility building which will be a shell for bathroom space as well as a utility panel and water storage; connecting the town’s septic system to the farm; and re-grading the entrance on Bolton Center Road for better sightlines.’
- Phase III should read ‘Phase 3 includes formally changing the use of the barn to an assembly use. Occupancy and all other issues must comply with current codes.’
- Section 5b – Update on Fund Raising should read ‘Beth shared’ instead of ‘hared’.

Beth moved to accept the 11/1/21 minutes as amended; Rhea seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Resident’s Forum (Public Comment for items NOT on the Agenda)

New Bolton resident Tom Tierney joined the meeting by phone. He listened for the entire meeting and indicated an interest in getting more involved with the farm in the future, which was welcomed by the commission.

4. Correspondence

Nothing at this time.

5. Unfinished Business

A. Farm Maintenance Report

John Butrymovich was not present at the meeting, but sent an email on Tuesday morning: We [town crew] finished mowing the fields and cut up the big (hollow) oak that fell by the trail. We are in the process of getting a quote to fix the silo.

B. Update on Fundraising

Beth reported that there have been no monies added to the People’s Bank account since 11/22/21, when the balance was \$5,211.23. The Heritage Farm Fund with the town is at \$11,376.48. The large change from the prior month is due to the settlement of the last purchase order for Nelson Edwards, after which \$4,250 was credited back to the HFF account. There were also two donations totaling \$270 deposited and a minor amount of interest.

C. Eagle Scout Update

Arlene has not heard from the Eagle scout candidate, but a walk on the farm showed some progress, as plaque stands are in place but no signage.

[At this point First Selectwoman Pamela Sawyer joined the meeting, so we moved onto item 5G to connect with Steve Gardner for his update.]

G. Re-enactment 2022

Arlene introduced Steve Gardner who will be our contact with the re-enactment community for the 2022 event to be held at the farm on the first weekend of October. Arlene explained this event has been scaled back since the original plan in tandem with the Bolton 300th celebration. It will now include approximately 100 re-enactors to accommodate potential COVID concerns, and to be a 'dry run' for a larger event in 2026 to commemorate the 250th anniversary of 1776 across the nation. In conjunction with the weekend, we will be unveiling and dedicating the 3 new interpretive sign panels at the farm sponsored by the National Park Service [NPS] to celebrate the new Washington Rochambeau [WARO] trail route.

The needs of the re-enactors for the weekend were discussed, and Arlene indicated that the NPS has already committed to a budget for essentials, including cord wood, potable and other water needs, shuttle service to and from parking areas, State Police presence and porta-potties on site for both the re-enactors and the public. Other budget items, such as guest personalities and presentations from craftsmen of the period were also discussed. Steve explained that the events for the 2022 season were just now being finalized and as yet no groups have committed to any events. On the BAR wish list of items for the weekend are sufficient porta-potties and wash stations dedicated for re-enactors, a dinner event provided by the town for Saturday night and other weekend meal supplements, all of which encourage more groups to participate. On the wish list for the town are a few special guest personalities, such as George Washington and Benjamin Franklin to liven up the weekend, potentially partnering with local farmers/ restaurants to create a picnic lunch with the re-enactors to sell to the public, and possibly a dance or other social event for Saturday night. Steve indicated that there were 6 French regiments who would be invited, along with the BAR and the British regiments, and that mercantile suttlers and other demonstrations are a part of the package offered by the BAR. He did indicate that a good budget for any 'extras' we might want to add would be \$3000, but he will refine that once he meets with his team later in the month.

Steve confirmed that all re-enactment groups and individuals have some form of insurance to protect the town, and are willing to sign waivers as needed upon registration, which is a formal process assisted by each regimental officer. He recommended that we meet a few times between now and June, when monthly meetings should commence leading up to the event. Pam suggested that we schedule at least one meeting soon that can include town staff, so it must be before 3PM Mon – Thurs, or before noon on Friday. Steve also mentioned that he is looking for town of Bolton volunteers who want to be involved with the planning of the weekend to embellish his committee of 5-6 from the BAR.

D. Survey and Planning Grant Update

Arlene contacted Sara Nelson, who is anxious to complete her program notes for a meeting with town officials on the Master Plan. However, she again encouraged us to follow up on monetary and volunteer items from the colleague venues we identified. Beth agreed to review the lists created by the commission and questions suggested by Sara, and circulate those that were most relevant to our project, so we could divide up the interviews among commission members.

E. NPS/WR3 update

Arlene will meet with Lance Dimock and Pam Sawyer on Thursday January 6th to make progress on the wayfinding signs to be funded by the NPS. Locations were discussed and recommended over a year ago, but progress stalled because some of the locations need DOT approval. These signs should be in place prior to the Re-enactment event in October 2022.

F. Wilderness Graphics Interpretive Signage

The three interpretive sign panels are in fabrication and should be ready by February. They will be installed by the town crew at the farm in a location to be determined prior to the Re-enactment weekend in October 2022.

H. Sleigh Bells Ring Church Fair

By all members' agreement the fundraising efforts at the fair were a success. After expenses/ reimbursements, we deposited \$905 in the Peoples Bank account, and almost everything we brought was sold, including mugs and cards. We agreed to enter the fair again next year.

6. New Business

A. Additional fundraising events – at a previous meeting, we had agreed to investigate additional opportunities to partner with other non-profits in town to hopefully leverage our ability to fundraise, in anticipation of the

implementation of the first phases of the Master Plan this year. Currently we have the summer running series and yoga events at the farm, which bring in donations, and we have done well at the last two Sleigh Bells Ring fairs. Several other ideas were discussed as a replacement to our Farmers Market, which can no longer be held due to lack of participation by farmers in their busiest season. We also will have the opportunity to apply for a Bolton Community Fund grant if we have a non-profit/ fiscal agent partner. For the February meeting we all agreed to think of other ideas.

7. Adjournment

Rhea moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:45PM, Cara seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Beth Harney, vice chair

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