

Holliston Community Farm Advisory Committee Board

Minutes from 12/17/20 Meeting

Called to order at 6:32

Members present: Kristine Westland, Dennis Prefontaine, Jim Taralli, Kristen Serocki, and Dennis Serocki

Guests: Shannon Gratton, Robert Blair, Kevin Overshiner

Kriss Westland read the required zoom meeting announcement for the group.

Meeting minutes from the prior meeting will be reviewed and voted on at the next meeting.

Public comment: Robert Blair wanted to talk to the group about trying a Farmers Market in town again. He had posted on Facebook to see if there was interest with both vendors and the community as consumers. There were over 100 comments from both with plenty of interest. Due to the foot traffic he was thinking it could be held in Blair Square. Kevin Overshiner mentioned that it takes quite a bit of work and organization to pull off a successful Market. Kevin suggested reaching out to the Ashland Farmers market committee as it runs smoothly and is very successful.

Upswing Farm: They have bought a property in Pepperell, Ma. Kevin and Brittany would like to still use the Community farm as a pick up spot for their CSA customers in this area. They will not be using any of the field this upcoming season but have an employee Melissa Murphy who may be interested in using the space. Kevin will send her contact information to Kriss to hear her ideas.

Dennis Prefontaine made the motion to vote to allow Upswing Farm to continue to have their CSA pickups at the farm. Kristen seconded the motion. The group voted, all members voted yes.

Revolving account: There was a zoom meeting with Mary and Sharon from the Treasury department, Travis Ahern the Town Administrator, Kriss, Dennis Prefontaine, and Dennis Serocki to discuss our new revolving account. We will need to come up with a budget for the expenses of the property as well as clarify which fundraising monies belong to the Friends of the Farm.

As of right now it is only the rental fees for the plots that go into the revolving account. Dennis Serocki and Kriss Westland have requested the account information so we know what the expenses are as well as deposits through the town.

Fundraising: Shannon mentioned possibly raising the rental fee for the garden plots as well renting spaces in the greenhouse for starting seeds. Greenhouse rentals have been tried before but is definitely worth trying again.

Shannon also mentioned a seedling sale. Since Upswing will not be doing their sale out of the farm this is an idea we could pull off. We have the space in the greenhouse and it would be a low cost fundraiser for the Farm group. We could set it up with an online ordering with a Covid safe pick up.

Kriss is going to look into a fuel account at Holliston oil for the equipment used on the farm. There are many pieces of equipment that committee members have donated the time and usage but need fuel. Some examples are tillers, tractors, movers, a saw mill, weed whackers, blowers, etc.

CPC: Kriss is still looking into quotes for the gravel driveway for the upper part of the farm and parking area. We would like to discuss with them possibly receiving funds for this project as well as a new water well, some electrical work, and the outdoor pavilion.

We do need to do indoor electrical work on the panel. As of right now it is a 100 amp service and needs to be bumped to 200 amp. We will need to reach out to PJ Kilkelly of the Friends of the Farm again as they received a grant for that specific project.

Trails: Kriss, Dennis P, Dennis and Kristen Serocki all walked the property to measure the amount of trails available. There about 1.5 miles as of now. Some will need some clean up as they have not been used for a while. Dennis P looked into the conservation restrictions and found that they can be cleaned up and be up to 8" wide. Dennis P will also reach out to some of the boy scouts to see if this is a project they would like to help with.

Conservation Restriction: We haven't heard anything from Conservation about it and where it stands. We will have to reach out again.

Meeting adjourned 7:47