

TOWN OF SHERMAN

**Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on HAPPY ACRES FARM**

Meeting: October 16, 2013

Minutes

Attending: Joanna Wozniak, Jen Freed, Justin Molito, Neil Volkmar, Colette Shulman, Liz LaVia, Warren Pitcher, Andrea O'Connor, Clay Cope, ex officio

Absent: Robert Edmond, Jerrold Siegel, Jamie Spannhake

Also in attendance: Paul Kuhn, Richard Lenihan, Michael LaVia, Carol Havens, Frank and Stephanie Pruchnik

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Frank Pruchnick and his wife Stephanie were in attendance, having attended the Board of Selectmen's meeting immediately prior to this meeting. Committee members asked Frank a number of questions to understand the operation of the farm.

At present there are about 55 cows of which about 25 will be delivering calves in 2014. At present, there is sufficient hay and corn silage to support the herd through the winter months. Selected cattle are sold at auction each year, depending on their weight and the market. The farm can support about 80 head of cattle. Frank believes that the farm is set for the winter, with sufficient fuel and feed for operations. All equipment and machinery has been made ready for the spring season. While the land is most suited to pasturing farm animals, Frank would be open to experimenting with crops suited to the land. He and his family would be interested in occupying the homestead.

Following active dialogue with Frank, the Committee elected the following officers:

Chair, Andrea O'Connor

Vice Chair, Jen Freed

Recording Secretary, Joanne Wozniak

First Selectman Cope was asked whether a paid clerk might be appointed to the Committee to take minutes of meetings. He agreed to put this item on the Board of Selectmen's meeting agenda for October 24<sup>th</sup>. As Secretary, Joanne Wozniak would maintain files of pertinent information, including the on-line files that have been prepared for the Committee.

Discussion then turned to the tasks that must be accomplished in the short-term to prepare for the town's operation of the farm. Jen Freed prepared a task list as the discussion proceeded, which was later sent electronically to Committee members and is attached to the official copy of these minutes.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea O'Connor, Chair

