

AD HOC ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HAPPY ACRES FARMS

Monday, December 2, 2013, 7:00 PM, Mallory Town Hall Meeting Room

Meeting Minutes

FINAL

Members Present: J. Freed, J. Wozniak, L. LaVia, J. Molito, J. Siegel, N. Volkmar, P. Kuhn, R. Lenihan, W. Pitcher, M. Josephson, E. Smolen

Public and Invited: C. Cope (ex officio), C. Pitcher (SVFD Chief), B. Ostrosky, S. Warren, T. Piel, Bruce & Barbara Hoag,

Call to Order:

Acting as Chair, J. Freed Called the Meeting to Order at 7:10 p.m.

Approval of Minutes of November 20, 2013:

N. Volkmar Moved to Approve the Minutes of November 20, 2013 as written.

Seconded by: J. Siegel Vote: For: Unanimous

Approval of 2014 Schedule of Meetings:

N. Volkmar Moved to Approve the 2014 Schedule of Meetings as presented.

Seconded by: J. Siegel Vote: For: Unanimous

General Discussion & Comments:

- * J. Freed discussed the resignation of Andrea O'Connor with the Committee. An email was sent on Wednesday, November 27, 2013 to the Committee as well as several others on the distribution list from Chairman O'Connor announcing her departure from the Ad Hoc Committee effective immediately.
- * Former Chairman O'Connor was very knowledgeable in regard to the history and vision of the late owner, Tony Hapanowich. Discussion followed regarding items which need to be addressed in the immediate future and access to information. First Selectman C. Cope spoke to these concerns, stating he would make all documents available for viewing as well as provide a file cabinet for the Committee to be kept within Town Hall. Some documents are not able to be shared until the Estate has been settled. Mr. Cope stated he will follow up on communication between the Probate Judge, CPA and the Estate Atty.
- * In lieu of Mrs. O'Connor's resignation, J. Freed agreed to act as Chairman pending Nomination of another Chairman.
- * Discussion continued regarding the basic Committee processes and of electing a new Chairman. The Committee agreed to Vote at the Next Meeting to Nominate and Vote in a new Chairman.
- * There was confusion regarding the actual Committee members. J. Freed agreed to contact everyone on the distribution list and request a commitment from continuing as members.
- * Several points were discussed concerning the structure of the Committee and the need to verify commitment and participation among the actual members.
- * Agendas shall be generated by the Chairman and distributed to all members within seven days prior to the next Meeting. Agendas shall indicate when a Motion will be presented for discussion and possible Action.

- * The Committee decided Motions and Votes shall carry by majority consensus of the members present.
- * Review of the main goals at hand, both short term and long term.
- * Concerns were raised by L. LaVia and SVFD Chief C. Pitcher regarding the unattended farm, pointing out several hazards that could potentially happen without a residential Farm Manager. Others disputed concerns stating some farms don't always require constant over-site.
- * First Selectman Cope reported the BoS Moved in favor of a short term 12 to 18 month arrangement with the Farm Manager and is currently negotiating an agreement.
- * Discussion requesting clarification regarding earmarked funding for the farm and use of future funding, once the Town assumes ownership.
- * Many members shared frustration in reference to not having a better idea of the day to day financial commitments. The Committee requested financial documents from First Selectman Cope.
- * J. Wozniak was asked to find out if the Northwestern Conservation District would conduct a survey.
- * Discussion of several scenarios relating to the long term future of the Farm, such as; requesting bid proposals and business plans from independent farmers via web site, types of agricultural use, use by educational organizations and foundations, etc.

Items for December 18, 2013 Meeting Agenda:

- * Nominating Committee: Discussion and possible Action to elect Chairman
- * Progress report regarding Foundation
- * Farm Financials: Discussion of expenses

Adjournment:

N. Volkmar Moved to Adjourn the Meeting at 9:28 p.m.
Seconded by: J. Wozniak **Vote: For: Unanimous**

Respectfully submitted:



Christine Branson
 December 6, 2013

APPROVED AS WRITTEN 12/18/2013