

## Switzkill Farm Board Meeting

Town of Berne  
PO Box 57  
Berne, NY 12023

**Date:** January 3, 2017

Board members present: Ted Kunker, Lee Jones, Richard Ronconi, Mark Sengenberger, Mark Hohengasser, Diane Kingston, Craig Angard, Karen Schimmer (Town Board Liaison), and other interested citizens.

Ted Kunker called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

**Review of Minutes:** The minutes from 12/6/2016 were not available.

**Correspondence:** None

### **Old Business:**

**Grants Committee:** The committee will meet on Saturday, January 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Treasure's Report:** Mr. Jones outlined plans to track income and disbursements and said he will be contacting the Town Clerk about coordinating information. He reviewed income from March through November 2016 for a total of \$4970.00 without offsetting costs or including the \$5,000 advertising grant. Donations from two events are still with Forever Rural.

**Working Group on Land:** Mr. Hohengasser said a bird blind is being built. Ms. Schimmer said the Conservation Board is interested in setting up a "bio-blitz" on the property to identify habitats. A February or March meeting will be scheduled. Ms. Schimmer will contact BKW about bird-watching event.

**ADA Compliance Update:** Mr. Sengenberger said the ramps need to be removed from trailer and set in place.

**Calendar Update:** none

**Working Group on Observatory (HESO):** Mr. Angard said at the 12/16/2017 meeting, the group established a regular meeting schedule of the third Friday of each month. They also established bylaws and worked on Board structure. Continuing to work on the 501-C3 and Dark Sky Certification.

### **New Business:**

**Winterfest Update:** Mr. Angard said that the snowshoe 5k is still planned for January 28<sup>th</sup>. Pricing was reviewed. Mr. Hohengasser moved to set the family fee for the 5k at \$30. Mr. Sengenberger seconded and the motion passed, 7-0. Parking, food and events were also discussed.

**Board Responsibility, Commitment and Mission:** Mr. Sengenberger made changes to the mission statement based upon Board input from last meeting. Members reviewed. Mr. Jones moved to approve the revised mission statement as of January 3, 2017. Mr. Ronconi seconded and the motion passed, 7-0.

**Friends of Switzkill Farm:** Mr. Kunker asked members if anyone had names for a possible coordinator. Ms. Schimmer said perhaps someone would volunteer as SF expands.

**Country Classroom:** According to Mr. Kunker, the organization has decided upon another site.

**Review 2017 Programs:** Ms. Schimmer discussed a list of potential activities for the upcoming year and said that a good mix of all types is desirable and that a calendar of events should be published. Mr. Hohengasser stated that SF might be considered a "passive-use" park and suggested establishing self-guided tours. Members will contact Mr. Ronconi with names of possible volunteers within the community. The Board discussed holding singular events vs. one-day large gatherings with many events.

The meeting adjourned at 8:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Hill Brown  
Switzkill Farm Board Secretary