

Switzkill Farm Meeting Minutes

January 8, 2019

Attendance: Mark Hohengasser, Terry Schwendeman, Rich Ronconi, Nelson Kent and Karen Shimmer.

Visitors: Martin Szinger, Tom O'Malley, Roger Chrysler, Ted Kunker, Lisa Carr and Aaron Carr

Meeting was called to order at 7:02. December Minutes were approved.

The first planned hike took place with three participants.

Rich Ronconi plans to work with the FAA program at school in an attempt to promote use of Switzkill Farm for their program. Carrie Raymond is interested in presenting a composting class at BKW and might be interested in coordinating a program at Switzkill Farm.

There are a couple of roof leak concerns. Both the Lodge and the Retreat House are experiencing problems. Nelson Kent has been speaking with Anita Clayton about this problem. Nelson has placed thermometers along the basement crawlspaces to monitor temperatures, especially in light of the cold temperatures expected.

The Agricultural Committee has requested another dumpster in order to continue their cleanout of the proposed museum site. The Town Building Inspector should also look at the building to ensure it's integrity for use. There was a suggestion that the building also be checked to ensure no asbestos is present at the site.

Switzkill Valley Volunteers has filed with the Department of Health for approval of food programs. They also filed a DBA for Friends of Switzkill Farm and Switzkill Valley Volunteers. Once those DBAs are approved, checking accounts can be set up for both organizations.

There are currently three openings to be filled for positions on the Switzkill Farm Board. Applicants do not have to be Town of Berne residents. The budget is in place and planning and projects can begin as needed. There is a budgeted amount of \$2400 specifically for events. The Town's procurement policy allows for purchases of under \$500 without Town Board approval. It was suggested that at least four folding tables for crafts, food, etc. would be helpful at Switzkill Farm. This would help protect the round white tables from wear and tear.

It was suggested that the landscaping plan should be reviewed to create a phased plan. Nelson Kent is going to contact Deb Bajouwa to talk about the proposed landscaping project to see if she would be interested in participating with this project. It was agreed that parking is the most urgent project to tackle.

The Activity calendar has been created and hopefully will generate interest in the Park and possibly in SVV. Nelson has put the SF calendar on Google calendars and will maintain it. Our next large event is Winterfest on February 16. A preliminary committee of Mark, Rich, Nelson and Terry will meet to create plans for the event. The Kiwanis Club planned on having a meeting at SF in January. A Stop the Bleed training event will be held in February.

The Lodge Improvement Working group has not met yet but plans to meet to create a prioritized list of work needed at the lodge.

Rules and Regulations for use of the Lodge was reviewed and discussed. Once finalized, a permanent sign will be posted listing the Rules and Regulations.

The next meeting will be held February 5th.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Schwendeman

