

Switzkill Farm Board Meeting

Town of Berne
PO Box 57
Berne, NY 12023

Date: March 7, 2017

Board members present: Ted Kunker, Richard Ronconi, Mark Hohengasser, Mark Sengenberger, Charles Burgess, Craig Angard, Karen Schimmer (Town Board Liaison), Jim Cooke (Town Board Member) and other interested citizens.

Ted Kunker called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

Review of Minutes: The minutes from 12/6/2017 were reviewed. Mr. Hohengasser moved to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Sengenberger seconded and the minutes were approved, 4-0.

Public Comment: Jim Cooke introduced himself as a new Town Board member and offered to help with SF projects.

Correspondence: None

Old Business:

Town Board Update: Ms. Schimmer mentioned the apple tree trimming lecture for March 11, the Bio Blitz on June 19th and a music festival with a tentative date of July 22nd. She said Sue Hawkes-Teeter could do an orienteering event at the fall Harvestfest which the Board decided to hold on October 7th. The Town Board will be deciding at its next meeting on tables and chairs for the lodge. Karol Harlow was introduced as someone interested in helping establish a Friends of Switzkill Farm group.

Grants Committee: Mr. Ronconi discussed the McHenry Award program and SUNY Cobleskill becoming involved for next year's scholarship program. Mr. Kunker said he was waiting to hear back from Stewart's about a grant application.

Treasure's Report: No discussion.

Working Group on Land: Mr. Hohengasser reported on two trail work days and formalizing the project schedule. He said two axes broke due to a defect and will be contacting the manufacturer. He passed out a trail map for review and comment. Mr. Angard suggested placing elevation on map. The logo will be added. Mr. Hohengasser reported working with HESO regarding lighting on the property.

ADA Compliance Update: Handicapped signage and the ramp were discussed. Mr. Sengenberger said the bathroom door needs to be modified and rails need to be installed.

Calendar Update: Nothing new.

Friends of Switzkill Farm Update: Ms. Harlow will be providing updates at future meetings. Introductions were made.

New Business:

BioBlitz 6/10: Mr. Kunker said he'd be out of town. Mr. Burgess offered to grill for event.

MusicFest 7/22: Parking and locations for performers were discussed. If it rains the Lodge will be used. Ms. Schimmer suggested First Friday concerts as a possible ongoing event

HESO Update: Mr. Kunker asked for Board reaction to sending to the Town Board Phase One from the HESO presentation.

Bird Trail/Bird Houses: The Board discussed creation of a blue bird trail and a bird-house making event.

Hill and Mountain (Bock) Event: Rebecca Plattel from the Carey Institute approached the board regarding an event involving mountain bikes, beer and goats.

The meeting adjourned at 8:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Hill Brown
Switzkill Farm Board Secretary