

## Switzkill Farm Meeting Minutes

July 2, 2019

Attendance: Mark Hohengasser, Terry Schwendeman, Rich Ronconi, Craig Angard, Nelson Kent, Martin Szinger, Dee Woessner and Anne Cook and Karen Schimmer, liaison

Guests: Tom O'Malley, Lisa Carr, and Roger Chrysler, Sr.

Meeting was called to order to 7:02 p.m.

June 2019 minutes were discussed and approved.

Mark Hohengasser and Karen Schimmer met with the Town Supervisor to discuss issues pertaining to SF and due to limited time, were not able to address all issues. Another meeting with the town supervisor is scheduled for July 10<sup>th</sup>.

BKW will be using SF for their three, single-week STEAM programs this month. Lumber for benches has been donated to SF by Mark Shultes. An outdoor classroom will be set up for BKW's use.

A meeting was held with the town engineer to assess the condition of the barn to be used for the proposed Agricultural Museum. The Engineer's opinion was that it would be cheaper to tear down and replace the existing barns, rather than rehabilitate them. The SF board feels that some of the buildings could be rehabbed. Mark Hohengasser requested a second opinion be obtained by a local contractor to give an estimate of repairs and costs to accomplish them. It was suggested that perhaps Jim Bushnell, who is the newly hired town inspector could also take and look and the buildings and render an opinion.

The lighting shields were tested and worked. Additional shields will be need to be ordered to bring SF lighting into compliance for IDA certification. Craig Angard has been in contact with Adam Dalton, who is the new contact person at IDA. Nelson Kent asked if Craig was aware of any geometry calculation the

IDA may have to ensure the lights are adjusted properly and to determine if shields would be required for the spot lights located under eaves. The next step is to submit a lighting program showing what we intend to do to come into compliance, written proof of programs held at SF, and any environmental lectures that have taken place on the property which would show that SF is pro-environment. Letters from the Town Conservation Board, Hudson Mohawk Land Conservancy, Open Spaces Institute, Valerie Rapson with miSci, Union College, RPI, SUNY, Steve Relis and the Town Supervisor would also be helpful to include in our application. Possibly inviting several people interested in dark skies to visit SF and providing them with a presentation could muster support for our application. Craig will inform Mark Hohengasser, Terry Schwendeman, Nelson Kent, Rich Ronconni and Karen Schimmer of the tasks to be completed in order to submit our application.

Addressing any outstanding code issues with regard to the Retreat house should be addressed. Being able to allow overnight lodging at the retreat house be a great benefit. A request will be made to the new town inspector to provide a list of any unaddressed code issues.

Nelson Kent has prepared a written proposal for painting the lodge. Karen Schimmer will find out if there is a problem having someone working at the lodge who is non-union and will present the proposal to paint the lodge to the town board.

SVV will work on getting donations from Price Chopper for the October 2019 BooBash at SF. It may be possible to get them to donate donuts for the event but SVV is not optimistic that there will be much donated. Mark Hohengasser will work with Ted Kunker to discuss our wish list for the event. SVV is also planning on attending Family Farm Days at Two Rock Ranch in September. Any donations of baked goods to SVV would be greatly appreciated.

The Town Board went to session so the proposal to create a SF website was not able to be presented at the last town board meeting. Karen Schimmer will attempt to get the presentation on the Town's August Board meeting.

There was discussion about promoting SF during the Hilltowns Farm and Artisan Tour September 7 and 8<sup>th</sup>.

Mark Hohengasser will consolidate suggestions made by SF board members about our goals 1 – 3 year goals for the property. The SF Board can submit a request for improvements to SF with an estimate of

costs to the Town Supervisor, who can factor the request into his tentative budget for 2020. Parking, painting, phase one landscaping and a SF website would be priorities. Karen Schimmer will supply the SF board with a 2020 SF Budget Proposal form.

A trail map has been installed and Anne Cook has purchased mailboxes to install at trail heads to hold trail maps.

The next scheduled meeting is August 6, 2019 at the lodge at 7:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Schwendeman