

Switzkill Farm Meeting Minutes

October 1, 2019

Attendance: Mark Hohengasser, Terry Schwendeman, Rich Ronconi, Nelson Kent, Martin Szinger, and Anne Cook , Karen Schimmer

Guests: Tom O'Malley, Roger Crysler, Lisa Carr

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

September 2019 minutes were discussed and approved.

SVV has three dozen donuts donated by Dunkin Donuts for the Boo Bash in addition to the \$300.00 gift from Price Chopper.

The purchase of an AED for Switzkill Farm has been presented to the Town Supervisor but has not yet been approved.

Nelson Kent will put in a work order to improve the road leading to the Lodge. It has been washed out due to heavy rains.

The Advertising and Marketing Community met, designed and ordered a banner and secured permission to hang the banner advertising Boo Bash. Martin Szinger purchased the banner. Karen Schimmer will provide Martin with a voucher form for reimbursement.

Nelson Kent has submitted information to the Town for the purchase of light shields to bring the property into compliance for IDA certification. They will also create flyers to distribute around the community and at school. Much discussion was had with regard to the procurement of items for the property.

The SF introductory letter first drafted by Anne Cook is still awaiting edits and approval by the Town Board before it can be mailed to potentially interested parties. Martin requested that it be circulated before the SF board one more time before being sent to the Town board.

The Programs and Events Committee has met and will be meeting again, finalizing Boo Bash plans. Mark Hohengasser suggested one possible item for any future harvest festival or boo bash would be the creation of an obstacle course out of hay bales and old tires. The P & E committee attempted to meet with the Berne Youth Council to suggest a jointly sponsored event but it was not something the Youth Council appears to be interested at this time, but perhaps a partnership can be developed for future events.

Kevin Crosier hosted a forest management class and Rich Ronconi hosted a bee seminar at the Lodge in September. Numerous people stopped by the SF display table and many brochures were distributed at Family Farm Day held at Two Rock Ranch. There were also visitors to SF during the Helderberg Farm and Artisan tour. It would also be helpful to be able to provide SVV cards to visitors at the Lodge. Lisa Carr suggested a hard sign to be used for any promo tables. She got hers for around \$20 from Vista Print. Nelson Kent will work on creating a small promotional calendar for distribution around the community. They could also be included in any introductory letters mailed out.

Planning next year's calendar of events should begin shortly. Goals and initiatives should also be identified. Martin Szinger suggested that SF focus on a three tier system for identifying events. Tier One would be large events such as winterfest, earth day, boo bash. Tier Two events would encompass things such as the bee seminar or the forestry training class. The Third Tier would be lodge rentals.

Martin Szinger will be presenting the proposed SF website at the October Town Board Meeting requesting permission to provide a Switzkil Farm link on the town website.

Mark Hohengasser contacted International Dark Skies Association to progress SF IDA certification. He will be writing an application for same.

The BKW Future Farmers of American might be an excellent partner for the creation of interpretive signs for the proposed Ag and Farm museum.

Nelson Kent has installed the Registration Box and a security camera on the property.

Mark Hohengasser and Terry Schwendeman will be resigning from the SF Board on December 31, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Schwendeman

Switzkill Board Member

