

Switzkill Farm Board Meeting

Town of Berne
PO Box 57
Berne, NY 12023

Date: November 1, 2016

Board members present: Ted Kunker, Lee Jones, Richard Ronconi, Mark Sengenberger, Mark Hohengasser, Karen Schimmer (Town Board Liaison), and other interested citizens including Diane Poole, Colleen Kunker, Roger Chrysler and Tom and Avis O'Malley, the Carr family, and Roger Chrysler.

Ted Kunker called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Review of Minutes: The minutes from 10/4/2016 were reviewed. Mr. Jones moved to approve the minutes. Mr. Ronconi seconded and the motion passed, 5-0.

Aaron Carr, a sixth-grader at BKW, gave a presentation on pond wildlife and management to the Board. His display will be made available to view at the Town Hall.

Old Business:

Ms. Schimmer said that the road sign is being created. She said that the Town Board has some concern about using the kiosk down by the main road. Several Board members said that placing the sign/kiosk by the tree line would solve many problems and could be seen from the road.

Mr. Sengenberger asked whether the Town Attorney had reviewed this issue of holding events at the property even though the buildings may not be "to code." Mr. Kunker stated that according to information obtained, it is not required that an establishment need be at 100% compliance prior to offering services.

Ms. Schimmer said that the Country Classroom (k-2) came up to look at the property. The Board discussed property use and long-term commitments.

Mr. Hohengasser and Ms. Schimmer reported on the status of the equipment grant. Mr. Hohengasser said that there is a labor match (750 hours) tied to the grant and that if the Town receives the funding there will be plans for a fall trail work program.

Mr. Kunker said Supervisor Crosier had spoken with someone about repairing the roof on the hay barn. He also said that all registration contacts and planning for facility use should be directed to Town Clerk Anita Clayton. Mr. Hohengasser said that having business cards with SF contact information would be helpful. Ms. Schimmer said the SF Facebook page was up and running and urged Board members to join and post comments.

Mr. Kunker officially welcomed Craig Angard to the Task Force. Mr. Angard said that the HESO Board is going to a co-chair system. Electronic paperwork from the NY State Education Department is being completed in order to move forward with the incorporation. HESO members are considering "piggy-backing" with the Kopernik Observatory's 501-C3. There was discussion about MiSci reducing its involvement with HESO.

Winterfest is planned for the Saturday, January 28th. Mr. Angard will coordinate the activities for the festival. Mr. Hohengasser will make a snow chute and Mr. Kunker will supervise the food preparation.

Mr. Kunker and Mr. Ronconi discussed the involvement of local schools, especially BKW, with SF. Mr. Ronconi agreed to be the education liaison for the Board. Mr. Kunker asked the Board to reread the mission statement and consider personal interests/passions and how they might relate to the future of the organization/property. Also, suggest contacts that might benefit SF.

The Board agreed that the mission statement is to be reviewed again for ongoing pertinence to the SF property and planning.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Hill Brown
Switzkill Farm Board Secretary