

Switzkill Farm Meeting Minutes

November 6, 2018

Attendance: Ted Kunker, Nelson Kent, Richard Ronconi, Mark Hohengasser, Karen Schimmer, Terry Schwendeman. Missing were Diane Kingston, Lee Jones, Craig Angard and Chance Townsend.

Visitors: Roger Chrysler, Tom O'Malley, Aaron Carr, Lisa Carr, Mike Vincent and Martin Szinger

Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m.

October 2018 Meeting Minutes were approved.

There was no correspondence.

The preliminary budget was prepared by the Town of Berne . Proposed amounts for Switzkill Farm are \$2500 for Special Equipment, i.e., such as the generator or any other equipment we might feel is needed at the property. \$2500 for Safety Equipment, such as an AED. \$1500 for Recreational Equipment and \$1000 for Recreational Programs. Fuel costs have been estimated at \$3500 higher than in years past now totaling \$4750. \$1800 for electric, and \$375 for sewer cleanout and \$1000 miscellaneous. A total of \$14,675 has been allotted to Switzkill Farm in the preliminary Town of Berne budget. Switzkill brought in \$5000 in earnings for the year. The Town will vote to finalize the budget on November 14 at their regular meeting.

Karen Schimmer and Anita Clayton are going to prepare a fee schedule for use of Switzkill Farm.

A local law has been prepared setting forth perimeters for Switzkill Farm Board members to follow with regard to their tasks and responsibilities. This local law will become effective as soon as it is passed by the Town.

Karen Schimmer has requested that SF members prepare of a list of recommendations needed to improve the lodge and exterior. Work orders can be prepared and then the town maintenance crew would be able to work on proposed improvements. A committee consisting of Nelson Kent, Mark Hohengasser and Richard Ronconi will prepare that list. Karen will present the list to the Town Supervisor . Some quick suggestions for the list included a crash door at the top of the handicap ramp, resolution of the water quantity issue for large events at the lodge and addressing light fixtures to meet dark sky certification requirements. Nelson also mentioned that there is a problem with leaking at the retreat house as part of his caretaker's report.

Nelson Kent also agreed to take on the task of moving the Dark Sky Certification compliance forward.

A dumpster will be supplied by the Town for clean out of the Proposed Agricultural Museum building. A notification will be published on Facebook requesting volunteers for Saturday, November 10 starting at noon.

Ted Kunker will be resigning his position as chair and leaving the Switzkill Farm Board. Mark Hohengasser has agreed to become the new chairperson. Terry Schwendeman will be co-chair.

Several suggestions were discussed to create an events calendar for 2019 at Switzkill Farm. A preliminary calendar was created which included Winterfest on February 16; Earth Day on April 27; Father's Day Off on June 16; Boo Bash on October 19th. Smaller monthly events can then be added. Additional ideas included Mother's Day brunch on May 11th, a gardening day, apple tree pruning, astronomy night in August during meteor shower, a skating party, chain saw sharpening class, basic first aid, CPR certification, beekeeping in June, gift basket raffles as fund raisers at events, water safety, guided full moon snow shoe hike in January (20?), nature photography, learn to knit, proper Narcan use, St. Patrick's day event, concerts, bi-weekly hiking.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Schwendeman