

Switzkill Farm Meeting Minutes

December 4, 2018

Attendance: Mark Hohengasser, Terry Schwendeman, Craig Angard, Tom O'Malley, Roger Chrysler, Ted Kunker, Martin Szinger, Michael Vincent, Karen Schimmer

Meeting Called to Order: 7:03

November meeting minutes were approved and accepted.

Mark thanked Ted for his participation and guidance as Chair for the past several years and Mark has officially stepped into the role of Chair of the Switzkill Farm Board.

More tree identification markers were installed and the blue trail was opened up for better waterfall access. The beavers have moved upstream and there was discussion of relocating the planned beaver blind.

Mark met with the school to continue to spark interest in the weather station program. There is the possibility of working with the communications class at school with the development of flyers or other promotional information that coordinates with our events calendar and the creation of informational signs, with the assistance of the FFA for our farmer's museum.

Lee Jones and Diane Kingston are resigning from the board.

To prepare for the farmer's museum, one dumpster was delivered by the town and was completely filled with trash during the cleanout of the building that will house the museum.

The meteor shower viewing event will be held in August. It should be recommended to people coming to view the shower to bring chaise lounge chairs for optimal viewing. Two-thirds of the lighting at SF must be compliant before dark sky status can be applied for. Letters from the Town of Berne should be prepared to indicate the Towns' interest in applying for dark sky status and creation of a Sky Park. These

will be submitted to the IDA. Funding to bring lights into compliance will come out of the town's buildings budget.

Switzkill Valley Volunteers has a new logo generated. Meetings are held at Ted and Colleen's residence.

A calendar of events at Switzkill Farm has been created. Different possibilities for types of hikes were discussed, such as a birding hike, or an animal tracking hike. Anita Clayton will consolidate our events calendar with hers to help prevent conflicts. A creation of a calendar to promote Switzkill Farm and its events was suggested for distribution throughout businesses and civic groups within the community. Mark and Karen will work on producing the calendar. The idea of a Local Farm Families Calendar as a fundraiser was also suggested, perhaps a project for the Switzkill Valley Volunteers?

Long Path connection update: Andy Garrison who is in charge of the Long Path was going to speak with the owner of the Furman property with hopes of incorporating the Furman property and Switzkill Farm as part of the Long Path. This could also create more demand for camping sites at SF.

Suggestions for replacements to fill the vacated board member positions should be passed on to Karen Schimmer. Because the board does not handle money, it was determined that there is no longer a need for a treasurer. The official positions on the board will now be chair, vice chair and recording secretary. An accounting of costs for and revenue generated by SF should still be maintained by the board.

Rental of the Lodge for weddings has been increased to \$900 for residents and \$1300 for non-residents. This fee includes cleanup.

There was a request from the Radio Controlled Car Club to use the Farmer's Museum building to drive cars over the winter since the building is currently vacant. Chance would need to inspect the building to ensure it is safe for this use.

Lamont Engineering has provided the Town with two solutions to address the water shortage issues that could be present for large events.

A preliminary landscaping plan has been produced by Darryl King and was reviewed by the board. The plan would be implemented in stages.

The next meeting will be held on January 8th at the lodge.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Schwendeman