

## **Switzkill Farm Board Meeting**

Town of Berne  
PO Box 57  
Berne, NY 12023

**Date:** August 2, 2016

Board members present: Ted Kunker, Lee Jones, Diane Kingston, Charles Burgess, Richard Ronconi, Karen Schimmer (Town Board liaison), and other interested citizens.

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

**Review of minutes:** The Board reviewed the June 5, 2016 draft minutes. Mr. Jones moved to accept the minutes as amended. Mr. Ronconi seconded and the minutes were approved, 4-0

**Guest Comments/Correspondence:** Jolanta Jeanneney president of the United Blood Trackers (UBT) organization, spoke to the Board about using the property for its Annual Track Fest in the spring where 25-30 trained dogs would track on the land.

### **Old Business:**

**Grants** – Ms. Kingston told the Board she is seeking the \$1-50K level Lowes grant for establishing a camping program. Copies of the application were passed out. More information is needed. Mr. Kunker stated that the \$500K DEC/Park and Rec grant is too involved to be completed at this point. Will prioritize for next year. Mr. Kunker said he'd spoken with a local contractor about cost estimates to buildings. The Board discussed the merits of repair versus new construction. Mr. Burgess agreed to spearhead the CFA grant and request help from other board members when needed. The BKW Superintendant will be asked to speak to the Board about establishing an agriculture program and possible ties with Switzkill Farm.

**Land/Facilities** – Ms. Schimmer said there are colored markers for trails and that a system for identifying star-gazer vehicles after hours will be in place soon. Mark Hohengasser is working on getting a grant for trail maintenance equipment.

**Observatory** – Craig Angard said HESO will make a presentation to the Board at its next meeting on September 6<sup>th</sup>. They will have a table at Summerfest on August 27<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Burgess agreed to get copies of HESO proposal out to board members for their review prior to the presentation.

**Cost structure** – Ms. Schimmer passed out a working fee sheet for review. The Board discussed pricing of events.

### **New Business:**

Ms. Schimmer reported that the Town senior account clerk will provide the Board a monthly Switzkill Farm budget report.

Upcoming events were discussed. A harvest festival is planned for the fall with Mr. Burgess providing music at the close.

There being no additional business before the Board, Mr. Jones moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Kunker seconded and the motion passed, 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Hill Brown  
GFR Board Secretary