

## Switzkill Farm Board Meeting

Town of Berne  
PO Box 57  
Berne, NY 12023

**Date:** October 4, 2016

Board members present: Ted Kunker, Lee Jones, Diane Kingston, Charles Burgess, Richard Ronconi, Mark Sengenberger, Karen Schimmer (Town Board Liaison), and other interested citizens including Diane Poole, Roger Chrysler and Tom O'Malley.

Ted Kunker called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

**Review of Minutes:** The minutes from 9/6/2016 were reviewed and by a vote of 6-0 were approved.

Ms. Kingston and Mr. Kunker expressed interest in reaching out to Helen Lounsbury regarding her helping the Board in attaining grants. Mr. Burgess suggested more focus on leasing space to earn income. Mr. Ronconi mentioned the need for more handicapped accessibility.

There was discussion about reconnecting the fire detection/alarm system. Mr. Ronconi moved to propose a resolution and suggest to the Town Board that it consider installing a ramp and crash bar, proper handicapped-accessible bathroom facilities, and an updated fire-alarm system to the lodge. Mr. Sengenberger seconded the motion. An amendment to the motion to include the retreat house and make similar upgrades to meet NY State standards as needed was made by Mr. Jones. Mr. Burgess suggested that the Board ask the Town Board to indicate which buildings on the property are ADA compliant. The motion passed on a vote of 6-0.

The Board discussed upcoming events. Mr. Sengenberger moved to have the Town Attorney review whether the Town should be holding events at the property without proper adherence to NY State ADA code. Mr. Ronconi seconded. The motion passed on a vote of 6-0.

Ms. Schimmer discussed the name change to Switzkill Farm, the tag line and the logo.

Mr. Kunker will contact Randy Bashwinger about a grader.

Ms. Schimmer mentioned that there is a donor who would like to fund building a warming hut on the property. The Board discussed possible locations. Mr. Kunker said he'd prefer to reach out to the donor first regarding specifics. Mr. Burgess moved to have Mr. Kunker and a representative of the Working Group on Land be authorized by the Board to work together with the donor to site the placement of a warming hut on the property. Mr. Ronconi seconded. The motion passed on a vote of 6-0.

Mr. Burgess said that Forever Rural would like to use the proceeds from the recent concert to move the kiosk to the main road and use as a sign for the property. Ms. Schimmer said that perhaps the Town could move the sign and therefore save the funds for something else.

Ms. Schimmer told Mr. Kunker that the application/registration/waiver form was finalized and that persons interested in using the property should be directed to the Town Clerk for payment and booking on the calendar.

The Board discussed HESO presentation and the subsequent article in The Enterprise. There was a general discussion of costs relating to the proposed observatory. Mr. Burgess will provide additional numbers in Nov. or Dec.

Mr. Kunker asked the Board members to review for discussion for the next meeting the *Board Member Mission and Responsibility Statement*.

The meeting adjourned at 8:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Hill Brown  
Switzkill Farm Board Secretary