

Minutes from the Town of Walpole
Adams Farm Committee (AFC) Meeting
November 2, 2020

A meeting of the Adams Farm Committee was held at Walpole Town Hall on November 2, 2020.

ATTENDING:

- Committee Members: Rob Belcher, Linda Connors, Wayne Ellis, Liz McAfee, and Jack Wiley

The meeting was called to order by Jack Wiley at 1:00 p.m.

Minutes of Previous Meetings

A majority of the Committee approved the minutes of the October 5, 2020 meeting.

Event Applications and Updates

- **Boy Scout Troop 44 meeting day** – The Troop indicated that they will change their meeting day to Sunday and work around other events at the Farm. Wayne Ellis will check about dates.
- **Friends of Adams Farm nature walk** – A majority of the Committee approved the following:
 - A series of four free morning walks between 9 am and 12 noon on Saturday May 22, June 19, August 14, and September 11, 2021.
 - One free evening walk between 6 and 9 pm on Saturday, July 17, 2021.
- **Davis Family holiday party 12/5/20, 11 am to 5 pm** – Liz reported that the Board of Selectmen have approved this event but have put the use of a fire pit on hold until a time closer to the event when the Fire Department can evaluate the situation and give a decision.
- **Feedback** – Liz reported that she received emails from:
 - John Moon – thanking the Committee for all its support of the dog dash event on October 31.
 - Stephanie Berenson – indicating that she was not able to hold her photoshoot as planned at the Farm but would be sending a donation to support the Farm.

Liz will keep copies of these emails.

Old Business

- **Fee schedule for photographer use of Adams Farm** – After some discussion, a majority of the Committee agreed to propose the following fee schedule to the Board of Selectmen:
 - \$100 for a permit running from January 1 through December 31
 - \$60 for a permit running from July 1 through December 31

The Committee also agreed to the following:

- The new fees need to be added to the application to use the Farm.
- The permit issued for use of the Farm needs to be updated to reflect the time period covered by the permit.
- A first-time application needs to go before the Board of Selectmen but a subsequent application from the same applicant can be treated as a recurring event.
- Notice of the new fees should be posted on the kiosk at the Farm.
- **Adams Farm Committee web page on the Walpole Town website** – Liz indicated that she will work with the website manager to format the application to use the Farm so that it is possible to print out only the application pages (without the instruction pages interspersed).
- **Pearce property** – Jack proposed using a trail that goes up by this property and adding to it so that the trail loops back. This area needs to be marked to see if the looping would work. Jack also indicated that this trail past the Pearce property might suit the needs of a group of students from the Millis High School STEAM Scholars Group that wants to build a mountain bike trail at Adams Farm as a project that gives back to the community (Senior Capstone Project). Jack will let the group know about this opportunity. Rob suggested that the group also be informed about the ability to use mountain bikes on other trails at the Farm.
- **Vegetation management** – Jack reported that:
 - Michael Lobisser has somebody that will do the brush hogging this month of the field behind the volleyball court, the Monarch field, and the north side of the front field
 - The Friends of Adams Farm will pay for the brush hogging work.
- **Unleashed dogs** – Linda referred to an email forwarded by Yvette Morrill of the Friends of Adams Farm concerning a surge of unleashed dogs at the Farm. After some discussion, the Committee suggested doing the following:
 - Put up more signs about dogs needing to be on leash
 - Provide the animal control officer's phone number to call and report dogs off leash. Jack will run this suggestion by the animal control officer.

New Business

- **Smoking at the Farm** – Linda asked whether there are any regulations governing smoking at the Farm and voiced concern about smoking and the recent dry weather conditions. Jack indicated that there were no regulations that he's aware of.
- **Monarch Waystation sign** – Liz reported that the sign is missing from the entrance to the Monarch field and trail behind the barn and that there are additional signs in the barn. Jack said that he will put a sign back up.
- **Friends of Adams Farm (FOAF)** – Jack reported that FOAF has been involved in the following:
 - Fence painting – This is in process and the AFC has paid for the paint.
 - Installation of a new flag on the flag pole at the barn.
 - Review of lighting at the barn – The solar light isn't necessary and can be removed.
 - Project list – Yvette Morrill put together a list of yearly maintenance projects at the Farm and has given the list to the AFC.
 - Seed library – Liz has volunteered to take on this project.

- Community garden – Liz reported that hoses and wheelbarrows are now stored in the barn for the winter and that the water to the garden has been shut off. Jack reported that Yvette Morrill is looking into funding garden fence replacement by pooling charitable, FOAF, and AFC funds.
- Fence repair – FOAF will pay for fence work along the entrance area to the Farm and use galvanized pipe at the ground level to repair fence posts.
- **Barn lock box** – Liz reported that she obtained instructions from Scott Martin for changing the lock box code.

Account Balances

Jack reported that as of 9/30/20, AFC accounts held the following amounts:

- Fee Account -- \$13,374.40
- Gift Account -- \$3699.59

Next Meeting

The Committee agreed to meet again on December 7 and January 4 at 1 pm in Room 102 at Town Hall.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz McAfee, Secretary of the Adams Farm Committee

December 7, 2020