

**Minutes of Friends of Auerfarm Scenic Reserve (FASR) Steering Committee Meeting  
2-17-18  
Town Hall, Bloomfield, CT**

Attendees: Stephen Bayer, John Guglielmoni, Eric Hammerling, John Maier, Jeff Read, Beth Schiro, Kate Shafer, and Christopher Shepard.

Meeting commenced 6:30 pm.

1. Agenda: John Maier made a motion to accept the agenda, Jeff Read seconded, all approved.
2. Minutes: With a correction to Jo-Ann Bowen's name, Christopher Shepard made a motion to approve the minutes of the 11/28/17 meeting. Stephen Bayer seconded. All approved.
3. Governance: The proposed [operating guidelines](#) were discussed in detail. Changes were proposed and will be distributed to the committee for final comment.
4. Outreach Programming
  - a. 2018 Goals: We will try not to drive the public onto the property until the buildings have been removed (abatement will start February 28 and might take 6-12 months). After discussion, previously generated [outreach goals](#) were ranked, with consensus to focus on the top 4:
    - i. (19) Event focused on wildlife - start with birds (Audubon bird count, promote eBird.org, FrogWatch citizen science, Farmington Valley Butterfly count, vernal pool outing, etc.)
    - ii. (15) A hike on CT Trails Day (and/or Fall "Walkoctober")
    - iii. (8) Participate in the 4-H Education Center Fall Farm Festival
    - iv. (8) A beautification work party (e.g. plantings around signs)
    - v. (5) Create a new hiking trail
    - vi. (5) Maintain up to date information on page on CFPA website, Facebook, and emails
    - vii. (4) Geocache - promote it online and/or do a hiking event to it
    - viii. (4) Friends of CT State Parks legislative lobby day
    - ix. (1) Apple blossom party
  - b. Letter of support for constitutional amendment to protect public land: After discussion, Beth Schiro moved that we sign onto CFPA's letter. Jeff Read seconded. It was unanimously approved.
  - c. March 27 Legislative Day: It was agreed that we would at least send materials to this day/event.
  - d. December 3 Full Moon Party: Jo-Ann Bowen reported via email: The full moon party was a success. We grew the friends list, and in a social setting, connected with each other, the park supervisor and other friends. It was not labor intensive. I don't know if we should have a "Full Moon Party" again, but I do think we should plan on having an annual, primarily social, gathering to celebrate and build group cohesion.

5. Infrastructure

a. State Actions: John Guglielmoni's report is as follows:

- i. A steel gate, hinge and hold-back posts have been successfully prepped and painted this winter by seasonal employee Marcella Hube. I expect to install it this Spring as time allows.
- ii. A Shield Sign and Post have been prepped and painted by Ron Agard, DEEP Maintainer at the Pennwood Unit. We have several signs that will require installation throughout the unit this Spring and will install this sign (location TBD) in the latter half of our installation process.
- iii. We missed the opportunity to perform habitat mowing due to weather outcomes and equipment availability. After closer inspection of the fields this will not be a detrimental set-back, and we will be sure to mow the orchard fields early Autumn.
- iv. Abatement work to remove hazardous materials will begin in the coming weeks, allowing us to move forward with demolition.

b. Trail development: No updates.

6. Other: CFPA has been working with REI on their April 26 Grand Opening/Public Lands Day. Eric Hammerling will send out information about this.

7. Next meeting: A date to be determined in April; Christopher Shepard will send out proposed meeting dates.

8. Stephen Bayer moved that the meeting be adjourned, Jeff Read seconded, all approved, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.