

## DRAFT

### Minutes of Friends of Auerfarm Scenic Reserve (FASR) Steering Committee Meeting

5-21-18

Town Hall, Bloomfield, CT

Attendees: Christopher Shepard, Eric Hammerling, Stephen Bayer, Beth Schiro, Jeff Read, John Maier, John Guglielmoni, Kate Shafer, Neil Clark, Pat Clark, Anne Shemkovitz, Elizabeth Appel, and Naomi Cohen

Meeting commenced 6:30 pm, with introductions of attendees.

1. Agenda: Naomi Cohen made a motion to accept the agenda, Stephen Bayer seconded, all approved.
2. Minutes: Naomi Cohen made a motion to approve the minutes of the 2/27/18 and 4/16/18 meetings. Stephen Bayer seconded. All approved.
3. Governance: Stephen Bayer moved that the following slate of officers be elected for a term now through the end of 2018, and Kate Shafer seconded; all approved:
  - a. Chair: Christopher Shepard
  - b. Vice-Chair: Jo-Ann Bowen (subject to her acceptance)
  - c. Secretary: Elizabeth Appel
4. Infrastructure: John Guglielmoni gave the following report:
  - a. State park personnel are focused on building a visitor's center at Heublein and dealing with tornado damage around CT
  - b. They'll be mowing in the next week around the upper orchard
  - c. By the next FASR meeting, they hope to have a gate installed
  - d. Demolition update: power is disconnected, poles and wires still need to be removed, then they can apply for a demolition permit from the town
  - e. 4H made a proposal for the acquisition of the cider press and other items in the Cider Barn and that was approved so they're ready to move forward with removal of that building
  - f. There's no official answer on the issue of the Balbrae retaining wall
  - g. They may put up a simple split rail fence showing the boundary with 4H and signage indicating boundary of state land
5. Outreach: CT Trails day is June 2, and Kevin Gough will lead a walk at ASR from 1:30-2:30pm. John Maier, Beth Schiro and Stephen Bayer will be there. John Guglielmoni hopes to be there. Eric Hammerling gave an update on CT Trails Day generally.

6. Planning:

- a. Birding: Beth Schiro reported on her conversations, with highlights being: ebirding; the many birding programs around the area; May 30 potential hike led by Larry Loudon (?); potential photo contest; January bird sighting event; plantings to attract and assist birds, etc. Eric Hammerling commented that the January event sounds great assuming the demolition of buildings is completed in the fall. John Guglielmoni said that he's not ready to actively encourage these events (because of the status of demolition) but that it's OK to be on the property and do them. Beth has extensive notes on her conversations and resources about birding.
  - b. Signage:
    - i. A brown shield sign will go at the base of Cider Hill Road, on ASR property; hopefully some day a brown highway style sign will be placed on the road (Rte. 185), after the gate is up and the buildings are gone. The committee can start researching this.
    - ii. A larger bulletin board/information kiosk is anticipated (John Guglielmoni has one) which should be installed wherever the parking area ends up; anticipated timing: August. The committee can help provide information for the kiosk. John Guglielmoni will ask his people to create a map.
    - iii. There is a 12-18 month time line for a parking lot request.
    - iv. CFPA will be meeting with MDC on May 30 in hopes of moving forward with connecting trails. We'll need to recruit volunteers to help build the trails and donations to pay for the MDC gate.
  - c. 4H Farm Fest: Scheduled for October 6. Beth Schiro suggested carpeting (to cover poison ivy), lawn furniture, free food. Elizabeth Appel suggested scheduled walks with a leader; Christopher Shepard suggested a booth down at the Farm and trying to get 4H to put information on the map/flyer they circulate
7. Next meeting: July 16, 6:30-8:00pm. Christopher Shepard will ask for an ad hoc committee to work on the 4H fest
8. Naomi Cohen moved that the meeting be adjourned, Stephen Bayer seconded, all approved, and the meeting was adjourned.