

Minutes of Friends of Auerfarm Scenic Reserve (FASR) Meeting 10-23-17

Town Hall, Bloomfield, CT

Attendees: Elizabeth Appel, Naomi Cohen, John Maier, Kate Shafer, Christopher Shepard, Beth Schiro, Stephen Bayer, Eric Hammerling, Jeffrey Read

Meeting commenced 6:35 pm.

1. Agenda: The agenda was accepted without formal motion.
2. Minutes: Stephen made a motion to approve the minutes of the 8/31/17 meeting. John seconded. All approved.
3. Governance:
 - a. Operating Guidelines: Elizabeth Appel and Naomi Cohen met, and plan to circulate a proposal before our next meeting.
 - b. Fiscal Sponsorship Agreement: Naomi spoke to David Baram and the Office of Legislative Research (OLR) is looking into answers to questions that have been raised by FASR. Christopher talked to New England Grassroots organization to see how they handle it – their indemnification language is more focused on misuse of funds. There followed a discussion about fiscal sponsorship, expenditures and liability issues. Eric agrees that we should wait for the OLR report, and suggests that we propose acceptable language. The motion to approve or amend the agreement remains tabled.
4. Infrastructure: [This item was not discussed at the meeting]
5. Outreach Programming
 - . 4-H Fall Festival Debrief: About 50 people visited the hill on this September 14 event. About 20 joined our email list. We don't yet have numbers for the full 4-H Fall Festival attendance. The FASR Facebook page has a few more likes. A lot of effort was extended on behalf of FASR, but it was a good opportunity to try out ideas, materials, activities, recruiting volunteers, etc. The general consensus was that we should do this again next year. Pre-event organization was universally agreed to be admirable.
It was agreed that FASR is still considering doing an independent launch in the spring, being careful and clear about expenditure of funds and energy/time.
 - a. Quarterly Membership meeting. There will be a meeting/celebration on December 3 at Ocho Café. Volunteers, meeting attendees and (if possible) elected officials will be invited. Beth and Jo-Ann Bowen have begun planning. The purpose of the meeting is a thank-you event for those who have contributed to the FASR.
 - b. Geocache. The geocache has been submitted and is awaiting approval by the state.
 - c. Programs. It was agreed to aim to have the Governor visit the Reserve on Earth Day. Christopher suggested that the FASR review all possible programs for the Reserve, and then select identity and timing of programs.
6. Other topics: none discussed.
7. Next meeting: November 28, 2017, 6:30 pm.
8. Stephen Bayer moved that the meeting be adjourned, John seconded, all approved, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.