

Minutes of Friends of Auerfarm Scenic Reserve (FASR) Meeting, 9-14-17
4-H Education Center, Bloomfield, CT

Attendees: Elizabeth Appel, Jo-Ann Bowen, Naomi Cohen, John Maier, Kate Shafer, Christopher Shepard, Beth Schiro, Stephen Bayer, Eric Hammerling, Lewis Rawles, Floyd Bagwell, Syd Schulman

Meeting commenced 6:45 pm.

1. Agenda: The agenda was accepted, with the addition of introductions of attendees.
2. Minutes: Christopher made a motion to approve the minutes of the 8/31/17 meeting. Naomi Cohen seconded. All approved. Attendees introduced themselves.
3. Governance:
 - a. Operating Guidelines: Elizabeth Appel and Naomi Cohen are researching guidelines, keeping in mind that we are not a formally organized entity.
 - b. Fiscal Sponsorship Agreement: We have a proposed agreement and are working out details. Naomi Cohen has summarized issues to be resolved; friends should respond with comments. The group would prefer to get the organizational issues resolved before the agreement is signed. CFPA's attorney might be able to come to a meeting to address concerns.
4. Infrastructure:
 - a. Trail Development: The committee has started to sketch out a possible trail. Jo-Ann has been investigating accessible trails. 4-H and DEEP have been positive about our ideas, but there are things that need to be done as a prerequisite (removal of structures, etc.). We need to seek MDC approval to re-open a former path. For state action, we're waiting for a new state park supervisor to be hired. On September 30 there is a networking event in Pomfret relating to accessible trails – Jo-Ann circulated a flyer.
 - b. Old Orchard. Beth Schiro investigated whether there is value to be preserved here. There are a number of heirloom varieties of apples but none considered rare. We may need to advise the State on best practices to manage the orchard and ensure that the State is coordinating with the 4-H group regarding orchard management practices.
 - c. State Actions. Action on removal of structures is currently on hold.
5. Outreach Programming
 - a. State Budget. "Passport to the Parks" is something being proposed – a \$6 DMV fee to give you free access to the parks, renewable every 2 years.
 - b. 4-H Fall Festival. The event is September 14, and we will participate. There is a group creating a plan for the day. We are still gathering information about 4-H's specific plans for the day, but Auerfarm State Scenic Reserve will be a stop on a hayride tour. Details discussed at the meeting included: bingo game, wrist bands or magnets as prizes, selfie frame, Snapchat filter, coloring table, having the Boy

Scouts help out. Volunteers are needed in two hour shifts from 10:30am-4:30pm. Christopher Shepard will circulate a signup sheet electronically. The group will also send an email listing supplies needed. Friends are encouraged to share the 4-H Farm Day event on Facebook.

- c. Geocache. Beth Schiro (and daughter) have created a geocache on the Reserve.
 - d. Existing Programs. John Maier is compiling a list of potential programs, and asks that others share ideas as they come across them.
 - e. Online Presence. Friends are encouraged to look at our Facebook page, Instagram posts and web page, and give feedback to Christopher Shepard.
 - f. Membership meetings. After a discussion, the consensus was that the FASR should meet quarterly, with a holiday party/meeting.
6. Other topics: none discussed.
 7. Next meeting: Christopher Shepard will send out proposed dates.
 8. Stephen Bayer moved that the meeting be adjourned, Lewis seconded, all approved, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm