

SOUTH WINDSOR AGRICULTURE, ARTS & NATURE CENTER COMMITTEE

TOWN OF SOUTH WINDSOR

Minutes

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September 11, 2019

Burnham Property – 647 Ellington Road – Red Barn

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:38 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Members Present: Pat Botteron, Open Space Task Force
Mary Etter, Director of S. W. Public Library
Ray Favreau, Director of Parks & Recreation
Jeff Folger, Senior Environmental Planner
Katie Graham, Park & Recreation Commission
Virginia Macro, Historic District Commission
Michele Lipe, Director of Planning
Mayor Andrew Paterna, Town Council
Councilor Liz Pendleton, Town Council
Tim Shepard, South Windsor Land Trust
Betty Warren, IWA/CC

Members Absent: Stephanie Dexter, Planning & Zoning Commission
John Caldwell, Park & Recreation Department
Sandy Jeski, SWALPAC
Councilor Jan Snyder, Town Council

3. Approval of Past/Meeting Minutes (July 10, 2019)

Mr. Folger made a motion to approve the July 10, 2019 minutes. Mrs. Warren seconded the motion; and it was approved, unanimously.

4. Public Input

None

5. Discussion items

Viewing of the Barn at the Burnham Homestead – possible to move barn to Priest Farm?

Mayor Paterna stated that the Commission would like to investigate moving the barn from the Burnham property to the Priest property.

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ITEM:

5. Discussion items

Viewing of the Barn at the Burnham Homestead – possible to move barn to Priest Farm? (Continued)

Committee members discussed this item and felt that an estimate to move the barn would need to be sought. Mrs. Lipe felt that the intended use of the barn should be established in order to find out what building codes need to be met.

Mayor Paterna informed the Committee that Mr. Galligan had suggested the Committee might want to consider when the bids go out for the school, that removal of this barn be included in the referendum.

Donation of \$1,000 from the South Windsor Lions Club – Trailhead Marker

Mayor Paterna reminded the Committee that \$1,000 was given to the Committee from the Lions Club. When trails are established, a sign acknowledging their donation should be put up.

Determination of Status of Priest Farm House

Mr. Shepard stated that he feels restoration of the property should be done before the house is demolished or before a barn is put on the property. The land is the biggest asset on the property.

Committee members discussed different ideas for the use of the property. Mr. Folger stated that he believes Ray Favreau and John Caldwell are open to the idea of having a picnic area on the property. If that were to happen, all of the outbuildings would most likely have to be taken down, the silo would have to be fenced in, the house would need to be secured, and any safety concerns on the property would have to be addressed.

The Committee then discussed access to the property, and Mr. Folger informed the Committee that Eversource would be grading the existing access going into the property and felt that if the Farmers Market were held at this location, there would need to be an exit/entrance coming from Heritage Drive.

Mayor Paterna stated that fund raisers be held once the residents are made aware of this property. Mrs. Warren suggested holding a public meeting in order to receive suggestions regarding the property from residents.

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ITEM:

5. Discussion items

Determination of Status of Priest Farm House (Continued)

There were discussions regarding the availability of farmland restoration grants to clear some of the land. Mrs. Lipe suggested that the Committee quantify the items that would need to be done in order to do a restoration of the property.

Mrs. Macro made a motion to begin the process of farmland restoration on the Priest property. Mr. Shepard seconded the motion; and it was approved, unanimously.

Mayor Paterna made a motion to establish a working group that would work on getting estimates to complete the farmland restoration and report back to the Committee. Mr. Folger seconded the motion; and it was approved, unanimously.

The Sub-Committee will consist of Jeff Folger, John Caldwell, Andy Paterna, Tim Shepard, and Katie Graham.

Mrs. Etter and Mrs. Macro will look barns in different barns that have been restored. Mrs. Lipe stated that she would follow up with the Fire Marshal and Building Official to understand the building code requirements for the use of a barn on the property.

Mayor Paterna said he would work on getting an estimate for removal of the house.

6. New Business/Additional Discussion Items:

None

7. Next Meeting

Wednesday, October 9, 2019, at 5:30 p.m. at the South Windsor Public Library.

8. Adjournment

At 6:25 p.m., Mrs. Warren made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Botteron seconded the motion; and it was approved, unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah W. Reid
Council Clerk