

May 6th, 2021 – via Zoom

Joe Rogers, Member
Brooke Redmond
Jennifer Craig
Steve Verrill, Member
Liza Bemis, Co-chair
Emily Wheeler, Visitor
Brian Cramer, Hutchins Farm
Melissa Maxwell, Member
Chip Poutasse, Brigham Farm
Happy Goethart, Member
Dan Schmid, Member

7:03 called to order

April Minutes: Steve moves to approve and Dan seconds.

News from Farmers: Steve has 3 plantings of peas and 2 plantings of corn coming up. Verrill has been transplanting a lot. Dan shared that the Farm at Walden Woods has a lot in growing in their hoophouse and peas and beans in the field are a few inches high. Brian commented that recently May is 50 degrees which is not great for growing. Barrett's Mill has a woodchuck eating greenhouse seedlings.

Town Meeting Update Article 40: Town League of Women Voters invited someone from our committee to present our statement on May 19th at 9am. Mark will be speaking about the article, Steve will go on behalf of the Ag committee.

Spring Film: Emily shared that a lot of the filming is done. They did some long sessions at Scimone, Brigham, Verrill and Saltbox and images were taken of signs on roads from other farms. Has been fun for Emily to come along on the demos. She hasn't seen footage so there's no script yet, will likely be minimal. Will hopefully be done by time we meet next time, she will send an email and we can reply to Emily or Liza (no reply all). On May 20th the Farm mural goes up on side of Saltbox Kitchen. There will be a ceremony that night. All farms are invited. Has been in works for years, tiles are painted by different people including Emily! We will have a list of the farms. Phil got names of all Verrill crew would like to add them to credits. Speaking of list of farms, Steve asked if we need an updated brochure? Liza will add to agenda for next time.

Other business: Dan asked how the housing issue was going at Verrill. Steve shared that they have rented two apartments in Maynard at the view and moved in their crew. Steve will be renting out apartments they used to live in. Steve got a notice of assessment of \$95,000 on their unemployment taxes because of so many people out of work even though they didn't have anyone out of work.

Concord Museum: Jennifer shared that Concord Museum recently did an addition and renovations will be done by June. They are brainstorming how to bring people in, connect to the community. They will be hosting Old Home Week, welcoming back to the community people who have been away. They will have events throughout week that appeal to different people in the community, for instance there will be a reception at Newbury Court. On Sunday were going to have a free day for Concord residents. That Sunday is Concord's birthday. Agriculture is the backbone of Concord so they would like to do a weeknight event (not to interfere with the weekend including Ag Day). Might be interesting to have a panel. David Wood the curator could talk about Concord's roots in Ag and then one of the representative from a farm that has been here a long time, a new farm, and an end user/consumer on the panel. Virtual forums get 100 people. In person 40. The goal would be to educate people about what's going on in Concord today and connect to the history. Could have a food component from a restaurant or something for mingling after the panel which the museum would arrange.

Steve commented that it sounds like a good project. Would have to go a ways west in MA to find a town with more agriculture. One of the basic things is we have good land. Liza mentioned that it sounds cool but it is very hard time of year for us. Emily asked if this would be an in person event? Jennifer said yes, planning on in person events. Jennifer will talk to David Wood then coordinate with Liza. We need to decide who would talk and what promotion for the farms we would like to do. Dan said one thing that came up is the Concord Museum might have some antique farming tools? Jennifer will talk to David Wood because one of the new rooms will be all about Getting a Living so some are in there. And there's another room specifically about farming which could be part of the night. Brooke shared that the museum has a lot of multimedia and are very interested in linking history with today.

Public Comment

Next Meeting: June 10th. Steve offering tent if we want to try in person!

Steve moves to end meeting Dan seconds.