

Wakeman Town Farm Full Committee Meeting
August 07, 2023

Committee Members Present: Liz Milwe, Haley Schulman, Danna Rogers, Alice Ely, Bill Constantino, Susan Schmidt, Jamie Smith, Judy Stone

Others Present: John Montoni, Jennifer Whittle, Ellen Goldman, Travis Rew-Porter, Christy Colusardo, Noelle Slomich, Travis Rew-Porter, Natalie Glidden, Sean Fitzpatrick

Secretary: Nicole Gerber

Co-Chairs Update

- Welcome Natalie Glidden and Sean Fitzpatrick, our new farmers!
- Welcome Travis Rew-Porter, Farm volunteer and 2023 EGGStravaganza co-chair

Harvest Fest Update

- CK, this year's auctioneer, will be speaking with Harvest Fest sponsors and donors before the event
- Danna Rogers gave update on auction items
- Haley Schulman gave update on volunteers
- Susan Schmidt gave update on ticket sales
- Required Town permits have been completed
- Jobs4Blue job posting for traffic control has been submitted
- Food scraps will be composted at the event

Farm Report

- Westport PD approved proposed emergency evacuation plan
- Farmer Ryan will be coming back to the Farm early spring 2024 to help with maple tapping
- We have two broody hens and are allowing them to hatch eggs. A farm volunteer, and backyard chicken keeper with experience hatching eggs, has loaned the Farm an Eglu coop and run for our broody mammas.
- The four baby goats returned to Millmont Farm in mid-August
- 400lbs of honey has been harvested this year. The Farm currently has approximately 200,000 bees in our apiary

Education Update

- Alice Ely has been teaching our young campers about Monarch butterflies
- Noelle Slomich, our Education coordinator, has been sending weekly recap emails and photos to our camp families
- The Junior Farmers and Rugged Bear camps have been a success
- Late August "Caregiver + Me" programs are filled
- Fall programming begins 9/12

Barn Update

- Phil Cerrone, Town liaison, are working with Bill and John to finalize plans. The right side of the barn will need to be rebuilt.
- The remainder of the barn will get an overhaul, creating a 3-season Sprout House and giving the store a facelift
- John's workshop will remain in the barn
- We plan to regrade the Harvest Fest area
- Fundraising for the barn will continue at Harvest Fest

Sponsorship + Public Relations Update

- UCONN Master Gardeners surveyed and mapped the pond area in early August as part of the Patagonia granted Phase 1 Pond Restoration Project
- We won a grant from GMGA to fund the creation of signage in the Pollinator gardens
- Molly Belknap, a member of the WTF Teen Advisory Board, is spearheading the copy for the signs - Thank you Molly!
- The Wakeman Town Farm + The Porch at Christies food collaboration has launched! Customers can now purchase the WTF GOAT bowl and farm animal cookies at the restaurant. The cookies are also available on Saturdays at the farm stand - WTF loves The Porch!