

Wakeman Town Farm Full Committee Meeting
March 04, 2024

Committee Members Present: Bill Constantino, Nicole Gerber, Amy Ancel, Danna Rogers, Susan Schmidt, Judy Slone, Liz Milwe, Lisa Finn

Others Present: John Montoni, Noelle Slomich, Ellen Goldman, Jennifer Whittle

Secretary: Nicole Gerber

Events

- EGGstravaganza is scheduled for 3/30. This event is sold out.

2024 WTF Signature Events Dates

EGGstravaganza Sat 3/30
Drinking w/Chickens Thurs 5/23
Family Fun Day Sat 7/13
Annual Harvest Fest Fundraiser Sat 9/14
Octoberfest Biergarten Sun 10/20
Tree Lighting Ceremony Fri 12/06

Caretakers Report

- Two pregnant Dwarf Nigerian does are scheduled to arrive at the Farm in early May with kids expected late May/early June. Goats are on loan again from Millmont Farm in Roxbury, CT.
- We are adding 7 chicks to the flock and have several eggs in the incubator for the upcoming Chicken Keeping series.
- Unfortunately, we lost both bee hives over the winter. New bees are due to arrive in early March and early April. We are planning on 4-5 hives.
- We are starting to review applications for the Senior Internship program. This year we will only be taking 8 seniors from Staples High School.
- We are currently boiling Maple sap. A public demonstration is scheduled for Saturday, March 7

Sponsorships

- The following corporate sponsors have confirmed for 2024
 - Danna Rogers & Jen Kass from The Higgins Group - EGGstravaganza + Harvest Fest
 - BMW of Darien - 2024 Farm stand + Harvest Fest
 - Westport Family Dental - Drinking with Chickens event
 - Earth Animal - 2024 Veterinary fees
- Currently negotiating sponsorship of the Bees/Apiary
- Won a \$10,000 grant from Patagonia that will be applied to Phase 2 of the Pond Project
- Chicken sponsorships will go live in March. 2023 sponsors who renew by early April will gain early access to Drinking with Chickens tickets

Treasurers Report

- Proposed 2024 budget has been presented to the Town and is currently under review
- WTF is looking to hire on an hourly bookkeeper

Wakeman Barn Renovation Update

- An ADA approved bathroom has been added to the plans for the Wakeman Barn renovation project, as well as an addition of a gardening slop sink
- Waiting on finalized drawings for septic system from LandTech to submit to the Health Department for approval
- The project will include a new driveway
- A new walkway from Wakeman Farm Drive to the Farm gate is also under consideration
- The Barn committee is presenting finalized plans to the ZBA in April followed by a 30-day RFP process
- Construction is now targeted to begin in late September, after Harvest Fest
- Funds for the project do not include costs for the interior build out of the barn

Volunteers Update

- A volunteer recruitment coffee is scheduled for April 8th at 10am in Tim's Kitchen
- We are rolling out the Bloomerang Volunteer Management system over the next 4-6 weeks

January 13, 2023

cc: Liz Milwe & Bill Constantino, co-chairs, Wakeman Town Farm Committee