

Wakeman Town Farm Full Committee Meeting
May 06, 2024

Committee Members Present: Bill Constantino, Nicole Gerber, Amy Ancel, Danna Rogers, Susan Schmidt, Judy Slone, Liz Milwe, Paul Rossi, Alice Ely, Liz Milwe

Others Present: Noelle Slomich, Ellen Goldman, Jennifer Whittle, Nancy Plotkin, Judy Panzer, Julie Cook, Christy Colusardo, Natalie Glidden

Secretary: Nicole Gerber

Events

- We've added another semester of kids' cooking classes to meet demand
- All adult cooking classes scheduled for May are sold out
- The Drinking with Chickens event scheduled for May 23 is sold out
- Monthly Pizza Nights are starting up in June
- We have a full slate of rentals
- Harvest Fest planning meetings have already begun

Farmer's Update

- 2024 Farm stand, sponsored by BMW of Darien, begins Sat, June 8
- Several Master Gardeners have signed on to volunteer in the gardens again
- We had 70 volunteers from Greens Farms Academy (grades K-4th) help in the gardens at the end of April
- Students from Transitions of Bridgeport have signed on to come twice a month during the growing season
- We have brought on 2 college summer interns
- Open volunteer hours on Wed and Fridays (2:00-4:30pm) are very popular
- We are adding new topsoil and compost to the new gardens across the street. High school interns will help the farmers with spreading and planting

Sponsor's Update

- The Cathy Talmadge honorary pavilion is in the works. The goal is to have it installed before the summer season begins
- Two pregnant Dwarf Nigerian goats, on loan from Millmont Farm in Roxbury, have arrived at the Farm. They are due to kid Memorial Day weekend. The Gerber Family is sponsoring the program.
- The following sponsors have signed on since our last meeting
 - Help for Kids - Family Fun Day Lead Sponsor
 - Huntington Learning Center - Family Fun Day Lemonade Stand Sponsor
 - The Bromberg Family - Apiary
 - The Gerber Family - Goat Program
 - M&T Bank - Oktoberfest Biergarten
 - Town Fair Tire - Harvest Fest
 - Greens Farms Spirit Shop - Oktoberfest Biergarten & Harvest Fest

- Chicken sponsorships are selling fast! We have sold 18 out of 39 birds going in to the Drinking with Chickens event
- Barbara Boardman has joined the fundraising/sponsorship team as a volunteer

Education Update

- Spring Session 2 began Wed, May 15 with 11 after school classes
- Westport Seniors are touring the Farm on Fri May, 17
- Chryse Tyrell spent the day at the Tracy Magnet School helping the 2nd grade to rebuild the school garden
- We have several field trips lined up including multiple homeschool groups and the Girl Scouts
- Horizons PreK-K will be visiting the Farm on June 21
- We have almost fully filled all 15 summer camps over 7 weeks starting late June
- We are fully staffed with camp counselors. All are CPR certified
- 7 high school interns from Staples and Weston will be working at the Farm mid-May through early June. They will be learning about ecology, botany, food systems, soil health, and will be going on 3 field trips.

Wakeman Barn Renovation Update

- Two banners announcing the renovation and soliciting donations have been created
- Construction drawings are almost complete and approved
- Final rendering due Fri, May 10
- Finalizing designs for a separate tool shed

May 17, 2024

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