

Wakeman Town Farm Full Committee Meeting
November 04, 2024

Committee Members Present: Liz Milwe, Bill Constantino, Judy Sloan, Paul Rossi, Alice Ely, Amy Ancel

Others Present: Noelle Slomich, Jennifer Whittle, Nancy Plotkin, Christy Colasurdo, John Montoni, Stephanie Foote, Travis Rew

Secretary: Nicole Gerber

Education/Community Outreach Updates

- In October WTF's first special education classes for neurodivergent children were rolled out. The success of these classes has led to additional classes for this demographic:
 - A 3-week, 45-minute, Farmer program for ages 3-7 and 8-11. Participants will be able to take part in farm activities, at a slower pace, and with sensory interaction
 - A new 3-week culinary program for neurodivergent children will begin January 2025
- Westport elementary school 5th grade field trips were held last week and this week. The field trip is tied into the students' science unit, 'Pizza Farm' which highlights where food comes from.
- Additional community outreach: Help 4 Kids, an organization which helps families of abuse with young children, held an exclusive parent and me class on October 2nd. WTF is working with Help 4 Kids to develop more visits to WTF. Three Girl Scout trips and a CHT preschool tour also happened this past month
- WTF held 9 Fall classes for children. 7 out of 9 were at full capacity
- A total of 10 Late Fall classes will run 11/12-12/20. There is still room available in Fantastic Farmhands and Curious Sprouts classes
- Election Day Camp will run from 9am-1pm
- Scott Smith held a composting lecture at WTF. On 11/20 the Westport Library will host Scott Smith. WTF will have a table at the Westport Library to discuss composting. Alice Ely and Stephanie Foote will be at the table to answer questions.
- Upcoming events: Fall Wreath Making, Dahlia Workshop with Paul Rossi and Dasha

Events Updates

- Octoberfest Family Day was a huge success. 500 tickets were sold. Potential for more vendors, partnerships and sponsorships for this event in the future
- Holiday Lighting Event is scheduled for 12/6 from 4:30-6:30. Elementary school orchestras will play for attendees, the Porch at Christies will hand out cookies and hot chocolate, there will be a bonfire and traffic control. Event is sponsored by F&B. Jen Tooker is scheduled to light the tree

Culinary Updates

- Tim's Kitchen received new set of ovens
- Octoberfest Dinner is sold out
- There are several upcoming seasonal cooking/baking classes this month and next
- Tim's Kitchen has been rented out for several upcoming events; this might be a chance to leverage sponsorships
- Winter and Spring planning session is set for 11/5

Farm Updates

- Animals are healthy and doing well
- Gardens are being shut down for the winter
- Composting system has been reworked
- Farm stand did well; sold 300-400 lbs of tomatoes. WTF also donated 400 lbs of food from the farm stand to Food Rescue and Grow Your Own. Farm stand is being dismantled for the season
- Maple Syrup season is coming up
- Pergola was put up across the street. A plaque memorializing Cathy Talmadge will be created and placed on pergola

Barn Updates

- WTF received approval from ZBA to move forward
- Next P & Z meeting is TBA
- WTF will be meeting with Westport Building Department before the end of December
- We hope RFP goes out in January
- Current timeline is to begin building Spring 2025