

Raynes Farm Stewardship Committee
Meeting of October 23rd, 2024
Draft Minutes

Members present: Nick Campion (Chair), Bill Campbell, Don Briselden, Sally Ward, Kathy Norton

Others present: Kristen Murphy, Keith Whitehouse (ConCom), Michele Crepeau (ConCom) and Stephen Bedard (contractor)

Nick Campion called the meeting to order at 8:30 am.

Raynes Barn Repairs:

Stephen provided an overview of the work to date. He has completed foundation repointing, the addition of a protective coating on the silo, built and installed support brackets and sill repairs in the basement, hand hewn support posts out of young oak trees to match existing, fashioned and installed brackets for joint support securing the posts and beams, replaced the flooring in the south east bay, and repaired flooring on the east end. He has made substantial progress on the clapboard and trim repair and painting, completing the south side with approximately 30% (?) replacement. This required some effort because the building is 12" lower on the west side than the east side so spacing adjustments were necessary to keep the clapboards level. He has moved staging to the west side and started clapboard/trim repairs. He anticipates finishing the west end next year. Window frames have been completely repaired and he plans to install panes this winter, with window installation scheduled for next year. He has requested a contract extension for the remaining repairs. The request for extension requires LCHIP approval through their Board of Directors. The request has been submitted. The Town Manager will also need to sign a contract extension.

Nick motioned and Don 2nd to send a letter in support of the contract extension. Motion passed unanimously.

The contract with LGT Restoration for clapboard, trim and paint work on the east and north side has been completed.

The group also talked about the work volunteer/ConCom member Keith Whitehouse has done in and around the barn. He has cleaned up the main floor, swept the upper levels, trimmed and mowed all the brush and ivy around the barn. He removed rocks and barriers to make mowing up to the stonewall easier. He has removed the brush on the hill outside of the barn and repaired wellhouse door, and painted the west side large barn door.

The deferred tasks include the fire detection system which will be on the March ballot, and the interior staircase connecting the basement and the main level. Keith emphasized the importance of pursuing this project.

Outreach:

Kristen and Keith have talked about moving the historic items into the upper level rafters for display. Keith spoke with Barbara Rimkunis who is willing to help with information on the items.

Keith is interested in hosting sunrise event at the barn with sunrise at 6:45 am on November 23rd with coordination with the fire department and support for fire suppression, he hopes to also have a bonfire away from the barn and to provide cocoa on the hill near the barn. Kathy emphasized the need to rake out and clean up the remains after the fire which Keith was willing to do.

There was talk about repeating this event for the Solstice in December but with the early sunrise it was felt a sunset solstice event may be better received. It was suggested to reach out to EXTV for a time-lapse of the sunset at the solstice event.

Basement Work:

The group also visited the basement (Bill Campbell departed at that time) and Keith shared his desire to clean out the manure paddle system and preserve a section of it so it that its use is apparent. He also was interested in filling the remaining section on the channel with crushed stone to prevent trip hazard. All felt both were great ideas.

Don Briselden provided an overview of the structural work that has been accomplished over the years and he and Kristen talked about the existing outreach materials that are available for public engagement.

More effort is needed to better protect the baggage cart and Keith recommends not having it covered so moisture does not build up under the tarp.

Kristen noted a need to add fill around the catchbasin grate on the north side of the barn and will follow up with DPW.

With no further business, Nick closed the meeting at 9:34.