

Morrison Farm Committee
Minutes of
June 21, 2013

The Meeting was held in Room 126 at the Acton Town Hall at 472 Main Street.

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 am by Chairman William Mullin with the following members in attendance: Bill Mullin, Walter Foster, Ann Chang, Andy Magee, Mary Ann Ashton, Leanne Baxter and Kitty Cunkelman.

Guest attendees: Tom Tidman, Joe Will, Brewster Conant, Mike Gowing and John Benson.

Committee members absent: Peter Grover, Doug Tindal and Charlie Aaronson.

The posted agenda was acted on as follows:

1. **Review minutes:** The minutes from 5-6-13 were reviewed. The motion to approve the minutes was made by Andy Magee and seconded by Walter Foster. The minutes were unanimously approved by the committee.
2. **Review and discuss commentary from Board of Selectman's review meeting of 6/10/13:**
 - The BoS supported the MFC going forward.
 - The BoS agrees that the MFC should move forward with a scaled back plan that includes all elements except for the house and the barn.
 - The house and barn became the focal point of the BoS discussion. The BoS directed the MFC to consider the future of the house and barn as well. The BoS is interested in a holistic approach to the Morrison Farm and that must include addressing the house and barn in the future. The BoS appears interested in the MFC presenting options for the use of the house.
 - The MFC will request a copy of the minutes from the BoS meeting on 6-10-13 with the documentation of the specific direction given to the MFC.
 - The BoS clearly liked the ice house component and the trails. There were also a number of comments from the BoS in favor of a phased approach moving forward.
3. **Discuss request by Board of Selectman for Town Counsel clarity on the designation status of the buildings on the Morrison Farm.**
 - Bill requested the permission of the MFC to write a letter supporting the BoS request with more details on the confusion on this issue for the MFC and emphasizing the importance for the Town Counsel to tell us what we can and cannot do legally.
 - The MFC needs answers to the following specific questions:
 - Can we take the barn down and if so, what is the process?
 - If we keep the barn, what is the Town's obligation for keeping it up?

- Bill Mullin made the motion to write the letter to BoS asking for clarity on the issues outlined above. Mary Ann Ashton seconded.

4. Discuss next steps for the Morrison Farm Committee:

- Address the urgent issues: The deterioration of two historical assets, the cellar hole and the ice house foundation, before they are beyond restoration.
- Prepare for the annual CPC proposal and April town meeting.
 - Selectman support in Sept.
 - CPC proposal in Nov
 - To Town Meeting in April
 - Mary Ann emphasized that this needs to be a public process. In late Aug/early Sept the MFC needs to lead multiple walks/tours of Morrison by subject matter. The tours need to focus on each group's interest.
- The process for placing the back 16 acres under a conservation restriction was discussed. The MFC agreed that the MF needs to be kept as general and municipal land until the project is done. Putting a conservation restriction on the back 16 acres should be the final piece of the project. A third party such as the Sudbury Valley Trustees (SVT), not the town would have to hold the conservation restriction.

5. Election of Officers:

Committee nominations and elections were as follows:

- Bill Mullin nominated Mary Ann Ashton for Committee Chair. This was approved unanimously by the MFC.
- Bill Mullin nominated Ann Chang for Committee Vice-Chair. This was approved unanimously by the MFC.
- Mary Ann Ashton nominated Kitty Cunkelman for Committee Clerk. This was approved unanimously by the MFC.

Walter Foster announced that he was resigning from the MFC committee and will continue to serve on the CPC.

6. Schedule of Future Meetings:

- Next Morrison Farm Committee meeting is TBD.

7. Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm. The motion to adjourn was made by Bill Mullin and seconded by Mary Ann Ashton.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Cunkelman
Clerk