Williams Barn Committee

February 1, 2023

Minutes

Attending: Steve Woodin, Bruce Easom, Sandra Tobies, Bob Kniffen, Chris Furcolo, Joe Twomey, Matt Novak

Guest: Andrew Scott

Meeting opened 4:04

Minutes for last month will be approved at the next meeting.

The 3rd grade field trip to the Williams Barn and the Sawtell Schoolhouse has been scheduled for Monday and Tuesday, June 5 and 6, with 5 classes from Florence Roche and 3 classes from Swallow Union Elementary Schools attending. Both schools will come to the Williams Barn and to the Schoolhouse this year,

The committee discussed the possibility of a food truck festival and having 1-3 food trucks at each farmers market during the season. Chris F, suggested a trio of a dinner-type truck, a dessert truck and a coffee truck. Matt N. said he would speak with the coordinator of the Devens food truck event to find out about requirements such as fees, board of health etc. He will also ask Craig Bennett about food truck laws and requirements.

The committee voted and agreed unanimously to allow food trucks at the farmers market and possibly a festival. Bruce said we could try it for a year and assess at the end of the season. Bob K. suggested that if we did a food truck festival, that would be a good time to try to line up trucks for the market.

Bruce mentioned that one of the reasons the Groton Farmers Market has survived for so long when other area markets did not, is that Groton retained its focus as a true farmers market. Chris F. said that this aspect is something that should be used to promote the market. He also brought up the possibility of asking local chefs from farm-to-table restaurants or culinary schools if they’d like to set up at the market to demonstrate ideas on, e.g.. what to cook with the local produce. Other ideas came up for demonstrations during the markets that focused on cooking and using locally grown produce.

Bruce E. and Joe T. said the committee should consider asking the Town for financial assistance rather that fundraising. Bruce agreed to submit an application during the next cycle in the fall. Steve will speak to Mark Haddad about the committee’s financial situation and ask his advice on how and when to best apply for funding. At this point, it was agreed that we would not try to do any fundraising for the committee’s operating costs.

The committee would like to consider using the barn for more historical/agricultural/educational events.

Matt recommended that we advertise in the free Groton-Dunstable Living magazine when we get closer to farmers market time.

Bruce will check with Jeff Gordon about how to get the Williams Barn listed on the Destination Groton website.

Andrew Scott from the Groton Grange was a visitor at the meeting. He hopes that with the Grange and the WBC’s interests being so in line that there might be more ways to work together and to promote both groups.

Meeting adjourned 5:34 pm

Next meeting: March 1, 2023 at 4pm in the library.