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HESS-HATHAWAY PARK COMMITTEE
Thursday, April 8, 2021, 6:00pm
MINUTES

Meeting Location: **Virtual**

- I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER:** 6:04 pm, John Himmelspach
- II. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS, STAFF AND GUESTS**
Members present: J. Himmelspach-Waterford, A. Frasca-New Bern, North Carolina, J. Beseau-Waterford, K. Callahan-Waterford, M. Carlock-White Lake, J. Barker-Waterford, Florida, L. Hardacre-Waterford and J. Matsura-Waterford
Others present: A. Swanson-Waterford Township, K. Gertsen-Highland, T. Heglin-Rochester Hills, V. Morgan-White Lake (Hess staff), Hans Peterson
Members excused: N. Ristich, S. McCready
- III. REVIEW AND APPROVE AGENDA:** Motion to approve, M. Carlock, 2nd, J. Himmelspach. Motion passed.
- IV. REVIEW AND APROVE MINUTES:** Motion to approve, J. Beseau, 2nd, A. Frasca. Motion passed.
- V. CORRESPONDENCE:** None
- VI. REPORTS:**
 - a. Director's Report: Alison Swanson**
 - i. Alison was informed this morning that in-person board meetings cannot occur until June, at least at this point.
 - ii. Hess parking lot project for crack filling, striping and seal coating will go out for quotes along with Recreation Center parking lot project. The total cost is going to be over \$10,000 for the two parking lots.
 - iii. Requests for quotes will also go out for painting of Historic House and perhaps the chicken coop (historical house at Fish Hatchery Park was mentioned as well).
 - iv. Parks and Recreation is working to fill seasonal positions. Applicant number is low. Farm attendant is needed for Friday night.
 - v. The area east of the gazebo by the tree line is being considered for a memorial bench and tree. Merrie Carlock suggested referencing the master plan and ADA guidelines, and also considering mowing and trimming impacts. A commitment timetable should be addressed so Waterford is not responsible for presentation of bench in perpetuity.
 - vi. We are working to offer more programs for seniors and regular recreational programming. We are planning to run our youth soccer league. With the rise in COVID cases in Michigan, these plans are

With us there are no boundaries

uncertain. We are trying to figure out how to navigate the COVID safety precautions for 13 plus year old athletes that are supposed to be tested every week before they play.

- vii. Tori and I meeting with seasoned preschool teachers to offer “Preschoolers in the Park” program based outdoors at Hess running from **September through May.**

b. Parks and Recreation Programs: Tori Heglin

- i. Hop Into Spring event scheduled for April 17 will have farm staff supervising stations and Linda’s Community Service volunteers assisting with sanitizing and other pertinent tasks. Court Administrator concerned about COVID cases on the rise and this is being reviewed.
 - ii. Sheep Shearing in on Saturday, April 24. The only programming is the opportunity to see the sheep sheared at 10am in front of the horse barn.
 - iii. We are planning to offer our established camp programs, but will be decreasing the numbers from 40 registrants to 20 at a time. Masks at this point are required at all times, unless eating or drinking. We are still accepting camp counselor applications and hope to interview by the end of April.
 - iv. A preschool-aged program “Outdoor Explorers” and “Play-Group at the Park” will be running in April and May under the Hilltop Pavilion.
 - v. Milford, our beloved donkey passed away. He was a fan favorite for around 30 years. He passes away at the ripe old age of 35 years. We have been increasing the vet visits recently to help him over his digestion concerns. He enjoyed a good quality of life right up to the end of his days, and he will be missed.
- c. **Animal Report: John Barker:** Goats, sheep, cats and equine received their annual shots. Champagne missed Milford. Dick and geese have their summer fountain. Sheep are looking forward to their haircuts. Wilbur will be going to his summer home Saturday. New addition to the farm is a mobile chicken house that we hope to have house baby turkeys.
- d. **Hay Fields & Equipment:** No updates
- e. **Community Garden: Kelie Callahan:** Gardeners are always anxious to hear when the water will be turned on. Tori indicated a decision was made to not extend community garden plots beyond our 88 established plots. Two concerns noted was the low horse power and efficiency of the garden water pump and lack of staff for plowing and disking both gardens.
- f. **51st District Court Garden: Linda Hardacre:** Linda discussed starting to prepare the garden as early as May 1. Between Jessie, Kelie and John Tuesdays and Thursdays will be covered. Linda will be covering Saturdays, and may be adding a Wednesday. The 51st District Court has an increased interest in providing community service hours instead of incarceration.

VII. Old Business: Merrie and Kelie are looking into local Heirloom turkey breeds: Narragansett, Slate and Royal Palm.

VIII. New Business

- a. Hans Peterson joined the meeting from Burtchville, Michigan. Alison, John, Tori and additional staff visited his Dexter Cattle farm on March 28. We are seriously interested in adding two steers, and Hans was invited to answer any questions. Hans concurred with Merrie that castrated males (steers) work the best as “pets”. Castration is suggested at around 12 months to maximize the traits most desired in this breed (short legs). Hans will be de-horning for safety. The youngest calf still needs to be weaned and trained on bottle. Dr. Gertsen asked about tests

(such as TB) and vaccinations. Hans uses Thumb Veterinary Services in Sandusky, Michigan. There is nasal vaccine that he gives for pneumonia that will be needed again at 6 months. Dr. Gertsen would be interested in traveling with us to pick up steers. John Barker made a motion to obtain the two steers from Hans Peterson in Burtchville, Michigan (Lakeport Dexter/Highland Farm). Motion to approve, J. Barker, 2nd, K. Callahan. Motion passed.

b. Nomination of chairperson: John Himmelspach nominated Art Frasca for chairperson. Motion to approve, M. Carlock, 2nd, J. Himmelspach. Motion passed.

c. Nomination of vice-chairperson: Art Frasca nominated John Himmelspach for vice-chairperson. Motion to approve, K. Callahan, 2nd, M. Carlock. Motion passed.

d. Nomination on secretary: vacant

IX. Round Table Discussion

a. Kelie Callahan: Discussion on Community Garden took place at this time (see above).

b. Linda Hardacre: Discussion on District Court Garden took place at this time (see above).

c. Ken Gertsen: Hans Peterson is willing to come down to our farm to look at our stalls and fencing. Dr. Gertsen and other would be interested in joining us.

X. Public Comments – none

XI. ADJOURNMENT: 7:35pm. Motion passed.

Next meeting will be on Thursday, May 13 @ 6:00pm.

Location TBA