

NAGOG ORCHARD WORKING GROUP MEETING MINUTES FROM 1/3/24

Meeting called to order at 7:01pm

Present: Karen Morrison, Amy Tarlow-Lewis, Sarah Seaward, Jen Clancy

Absent: Matthew Nordhaus, Brad Mitchell, Will Pickard

In Brads (The Chair) absence, Amy (Vice Chair) ran the meeting.

Sarah made the motion to accept the minutes from 12/20/23 & Karen seconded. There was no additional discussion from those people joining remotely (at this time).

UPDATES:

- **HOUSE REMEDIATION UPDATE:** Sarah discussed the appraisal update from LandVest and in short, we don't have any firm numbers yet.
- **RFI UPDATE:** at the last meeting (12/20) the group made edits to the RFI and Karen took notes. She reported that she has not yet submitted those changes to Town Counsel. Sarah volunteered to email Town Counsel to let them know that Karen's rework would be submitted to them by Friday 1/5/23 and would ask for a speedy turnaround. The group decided in order not to lose any more time before the approved RFI was posted, to hold a special meeting Wednesday 1/10/24 to discuss and approve the RFI as approved by Town Counsel.
- **ADVERTISING UPDATE:** Jen received the Edible Worcester contract and the publication is giving us a break with a lower price in support of our mission for the orchard. We are committing to the Spring 24 issue (artwork deadline 1/14/23) for posting the RFI, and hopefully will be able to post the RFI for the Summer 24 issue. Jen to send pdf to Karen to forward to Town Administrator (Jim Duggan) for payment. Amy graciously volunteered to create the ad for the magazine and a paragraph outlining our mission with the RFI for Edible's digital newsletter. Edible did offer, for a nominal fee, to help with any graphic design support if needed. We spoke about a town specific website for the RFI and the RFI responses. Karen to reach out to Nancy Glencross for her help with making this happen ASAP. The group also decided that we needed to have an auto-reply for confirmation of receipt for those who reply to the RFI.
- **RFI SUBMISSION:** The committee thought that there needs to be one of them to be a second set of eyes on the email submissions; Amy volunteered to do that. In discussion of who would reach out to various listings with the RFI, it was decided that all the committee members had contacts they would send the RFI to as soon as it was ready, hopefully 1/11/24.
- **BUILDING REPAIRS:** Matthew was to get estimates on repairs which need to happen immediately but he was absent and had not forwarded any updates to the group. The committee noted that this was not the first time building repairs were discussed. Sarah showed pictures of the lower barn and the Pick Your Own shed. Disrepair has progressed due to wind and weather. We still need the Board of Select to reach out to Steve Jahnle to fix both of these. He was kind enough to get his crew to pick up the glass from behind the main barn prior to the Orchard Tour that was given 12/10/23.

The group opened up the floor to questions/comments from the public:

- Jackie Sagl inquired about potential risks of hayfields, inclusive of fire danger.
- Don MacIver stressed the mission of the Morrisons was agriculture and conservation, and wanted to remind all that we could potentially do a 99 year lease. The Town is currently suggesting a 30 year lease but is not locked into that. Longer leases are usually needed to recoup investments. Don is against selling, except for maybe a mission driven non-profit.

- Wendy Isaac wanted to know what the town oversight would be on the new RFI/RFP. She reminded all that the Town failed before in monitoring the orchard and would like to know how the process would be different. Discussion ensued about how the Town is not in the farming business and that the orchard did indeed need better oversight. Karen mentioned that the Town is hiring a Facilities Manager, but response was that that person would already have too much to do and may not have an agricultural background which would bring us to the same omission of attention. Amy suggested an overseer to the lease itself like Sudbury Valley Trustees.
- Don McIver reminded all that Church Meadows (under Town management) is also agriculture and kind of ignored. This is a land use issue for sure.

Due to the hard stop needed at 8pm, the meeting was adjourned at 7:58pm by Sarah and Jen seconded.