

KATAMA FARM STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES, OCTOBER 22, 2020

Present: Steinberg, Michel, Varkonda, Athearn, Munroe, Carlson, Kontje, Avakian

Varkonda began the meeting by introducing the members and who they represented.

Sam Hart and Lisa Goodheart gave an update of TTOR's activities at the farm and the request for an extension of the vacate order. Sam stated that the cover crops were planted on the veggie area near the solar field and the sunflower patch. The pumpkin patch will be cover cropped soon. He stated that Simon Athearn inspected the germination and coverage rate at the veggie area and noted that it was sufficient. TTOR has some staff on premises 5 days a week with coverage on weekends to take care of the remaining animals which are a hand full of chickens a few sheep and goats, which they hope to keep on island somewhere. The remainder of the cattle herd will be removed around November 12th. Hart noted that most of the buildings were locked and secure as per the ECC's request and that the back forty and buildings have been cleaned and are ready for the next tenants. They also spread 105 tons of lime on 160 acre and are spreading manure as well. Varkonda asked for a map of the area for the records.

Varkonda noted that the committee should do a site visit.

The members discussed whether to issue one or two rfp's, one for education and one for agriculture. Michel noted that the thought two rfp's and operations would be preferable as it has proven difficult for one entity to do both. He further stated that two rfp's would give further clarity of responsibility. Munroe asked if one party could hold both leases. Jon Previant supported the proposal to have two leases.

Varkonda noted that splitting the leases could lead to some problems with lack of an office for the farmer and little to no where for educational aspect to house equipment etc. It was noted that the restroom facilities are only in the office/kitchen and that the facility in the horse barn was not winterized.

Jocelyn Forebush, TTOR noted that the spaces can be divided and the two groups can easily work together and that 2 rfp's will likely add to more competition and interest.

Varkonda asked when the educational component needed to gear up for next summer season. Jocelyn gave a synopsis of the summer hiring process. Mark Snyder asked if the educational aspect was to be year round. Lilly, from TTOR noted that they do a have residential program in the spring and school programs throughout the year.

Carlson noted that the overlapping areas need to be identified and those will depend on the nature of each operation. Sam Hart noted that hayrides through the southern pasture could be negotiated between the parties. Jon Previant noted that it would be easier to determine who does what and where once the town delineates the

geographic boundaries. Previat further noted that the town could request that interested parties submit a Request for Expression Of Interest (REOI). That would give the town and the Committee and idea of what the potential uses would be. Munroe suggested that the town could also list what activities they did not want to see at the farm.

Gilker noted that it may be possible to have more than one farming interest working at different portions of time or in different areas of the farm that would compliment each other. Julie Scott noted that this is done at Thimble farm and it takes lots of coordination and a third party to manage issues as they arise. Munroe and Previat agreed.

Varkonda gave a brief synopsis of what each portion of the property can or could not be used for. Varkonda gave a brief synopsis of various housing ideas that have been tried and/or proposed.

A discussion ensued as to the ^{best} ~~past~~ avenues to advertise the REOI in local papers and education and farming publications and organizations.

Eric Glasgow noted that the town will need parameters to evaluate criteria for the RFP. Gilker noted that many land trusts do this and this could be proposed in a rubric.

Lisa Goodheart stated that due to time constraints it would be great if the town could get the education RFP out as soon as possible.

Varkonda noted that the committee will meet next week. The meeting adjourned at 1:57 by unanimous roll call vote.

approved ~~to~~ 1/28/21 gm
date