



Prairie Fire Farms **Board Meeting** MINUTES

08/08/23 | 7:30 pm | Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm by Megan Good

In Attendance (Board)

Board Members Present: Kathy Graham, Joan Smith, Megan Good, Lesley Darrin, Elena Swinson, Pam Leary

In Attendance (Others)

Kaydence Selvey, Gaige Selvey, Emily Twilley-Selvey (Executive Director), Liz Grubb

PFF Junior Team

Junior Team took part in assisting at HIT show

Past Events

Church of Brethren 7/20

- Staining and painting of picnic table & 2 benches; did wishing well jumps in white, some poles and stained, weeded bed next to ring, got all weeds and a lot of footing back into round pen, helped unclog/open wash stall area, barn chores.
- Was a really good group of people; from closer than thought—MD, Southern PA; staying at a local YMCA—had helped at Catra and were traveling around to help other non-profits.
- Nicole D came out to help, Will from Saddle-up also.
- Megan – what are the gates across from Barry's stall for?
 - Emily – talked w/Lesley about using as borders against flower bed area—need to figure out how to get them secured into the ground or hooked to ring posts.
- Joan – hose outside of wash stall also needs to go somewhere.
 - Emily – need to find a place for them to go; hung on hook in garage probably.

Market on Chocolate 8/5

- Thank you to helpers; made about \$110.
 - **Emily will add it to next P&L.**
- Not as many vendors.
- Had a couple visiting Hershey who ended up coming out for a one-time lesson the next day. Wife coming back for a weekend of lessons and training at the end of the month. From Williamsport; wants to come down once a month.

Future Events

Market on Chocolate –Sept. 2

- Looking for help with that (need to ask Lisa if she can trailer the minis)
- Emily will reach out to Lisa to ask her via Board Group

New Bloomfield Church Pony Rides – Sept. 30

Choctoberfest 10/14

- Need plenty of helpers!
- Elena can help; Barb definite maybe (depends on timing of grandbaby's birth); Megan isn't available

Barnsgiving 11/5

Grants Update

Need help with Grants; bring up ideas or awareness of any type of funding

Operations Update

General farm work/help/chores

- The tractor is going to need a new battery.
- Brush hog not working; need to rent one to get the pastures mowed.
- Need people to help weed whack and clean up and move things into their place. The tractor shed needs to be reorganized.
- Burn pit has multiple piles vs. one to two (small brush and large brush).
- Elena – Jesse mentioned getting other husbands to come out and help as a group.
- Emily – maybe pull out the beer trailer 😊
- Megan – jump shed has a hole in the roof; **Emily has call out to Erika who's husband owns DreamWorks and had said he'd repair the roof.** She's on vacation until end of this week, so just **have to remind her Erika.**

Manure Bin

- When is that coming back?
- **Emily** – will keep flipping manure for now. Will be trucking to low spots on the farm for now. Will then **talk to Keith to see if there's a better place we can have the bin** that we could drive the Bobcat into it and keep up on it.

Boys Pasture Turnout

- Kathy – any opportunity for another turnout shed in Boys pasture?
 - Emily – we need a good fundraiser—about \$15k for turnout shed (\$10k just for materials)

Deloitte Funding Update

- Megan – Deloitte update?
 - They want to purchase \$800 worth of items; has to go on reps credit card.
 - Emily – could she put it on an Amazon gift card so that we would have enough toward getting the electronic security gate.
 - **Lesley – will go back to Deloitte rep and advise what we want to do with it.**

Electronic Security Gate

- Joan – what happens if there's an issue and repairs are needed? What's the cost to fix it and is there anyone around who could fix it?
 - Emily – common brand (ghost control) comes with a lifetime warranty, technical support. Mechanical guy that does our waterers confirmed he or a regular electrician can look at the gate. If issue, the pump device gets disconnected and can be used without it. Common on horse farms in Bucks county.
- Barb – What about delivery drivers?
 - Emily/Lesley – Would put a box out for UPS/PS

Barn Leads Meetings & Volunteer Training Opportunities

- Gaige presented update:
 - Change format of leads meetings from hour or more to a micro-event
 - PFF instructors donate their time to educate barn leads via a lesson type event.
 - Focus would be medical care, training the horses (handling), safety and emergency protocol (loose horse, fire, natural disaster).

- All areas to be touched on, but one exercise for each session.
- General discussion:
 - The goal is to make it easier, more fulfilling/inviting.
 - Barn lead meeting would touch on seasonal things, then 2nd session something more involved would be demonstrated/discussed.
 - On opposite weeks of month would be available to regular volunteers to get them certified how to walk horses, do safety knots, stall care, etc. more like a lesson format for a group.
 - 1st Tuesday of month, volunteer training to all volunteers ready to learn what's being covered (operations page).
 - Another would be more extensive for barn leads.
 - Mostly in person but they don't all have to be.
 - Create Certificate for training sessions (Barb can help with those and keep a log—sign-up sheet).
 - Focus more on actual give-back—food or wine, etc. donated for those attending the more extensive training session.
 - Continuing Education - Schedule (Emily will write up—discussion points below)
 - One-hour general volunteer - Available 3 times a month, but likely only 1x a month.
 - General Chores, basics, specifics like horse handling that anyone can join.
 - Posted on event page.
 - Quarterly Barn leads wouldn't be 3 times a month; quarterly unless something specific must be addressed in between.
 - Lesley – suggest same topic for volunteer sessions the entire month (ie, Sept is puncture wound month)
 - **Kaydence, Gaige & Emily – will create a mock calendar month**; new volunteer once ready to start doing more would have been in the operations page (same scheduled times in WhentoHelp for those not on social media).
 - Joan – if there is someone we want to train as barn leads, but there are issues how would we know that.
 - Emily – should go to her first if want to train someone to be a barn lead; Emily can recommend sessions first to have that person learn and get them signed up.

Old Business

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Fundraisers

- Fall Mum Sale – 9/5 Week Delivery
- Need to go back to finding two large fundraisers (Spring/Fall)
 - Need follow-through and help for hay bill.
 - All hands on deck to come up with something and help organize it.
- Project Cultivate – for Poppy's profits
- Megan – put another post on Operations page seeking help for larger fundraiser (new volunteers may be able to help)
- Fundraiser Ideas (holds):
 - Paint & Sip Fundraiser
 - Bingo at Grantville
 - New Logo Glassware Sale
- Smaller Fundraiser Idea Holds for Future
 - Calendars – volunteer pictures with Board voting
 - Puzzles

New Business & Miscellaneous

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Other

Meeting Adjourned at 8:51 pm