

**TOWN OF RYE – BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**Goss Farm to Table Dinner**  
**Friday, April 26, 2019**  
**4:00 p.m. – Rye Town Hall**

*Selectman Present: Chair Phil Winslow*

*Others Present: Conservation Commission Chair Sally King, Building Inspector Peter Rowell, Fire Chief Mark Cotreau*

**I. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Winslow called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. and led the pledge of allegiance.

**II. Update on having the Goss Barn approved for an occupancy and fire permit.**

Chief Cotreau and Building Inspector Rowell led the discussion on the condition of the barn and what needs to be done prior to getting the occupancy and fire permits. Chief Cotreau stated that he and Mr. Rowell went out to the site and did an inspection. They presented a list of conditions that need to be addressed.

Mr. Rowell reported that the list is for a one-time use of the agricultural building (the barn) to serve a meal, in the interior of the building this fall. The conditions are based on 60 guests plus 15 staff. The fire department will be providing a two-person detail. There will need to be a guardrail placed in front of the rear door. It does not need to be a permanent structure. There is another small door on the east side of the barn that should not be used, as the granite steps have a large drop off. The main barn door should be left half open for entrance and egress. Any of the items that are being stored in the barn, that need to stay there, should be put to one side and roped off to keep people from accessing the area. There cannot be any interior heating appliances of any kind. All cooking needs to be done outside 50 feet from the barn. Temporary lighting fixtures are acceptable. No open flames, (such as candles). Posted “No Smoking” and “Exit” signs will be required. Mr. Rowell asked for a drawing showing the layout for the tables and chairs, in order to verify that there will be open aisles to the exits. In addition, if there is a tent, it has to be a fire-retardant tent. He also addressed parking; the cars should be parked in a manner that if an emergency vehicle has to get into the area the cars will not hinder access.

Sally King pointed out that there is not enough parking. She proposed parking across the street.

Chair Winslow asked what the constraints would be for having other events or meetings in the barn.

Mr. Rowell explained that for a permanent certificate of occupancy, the town should hire an architect and explain to him/her the purposes that the barn would be used for. The architect would come up with a list of the minimum requirements. After getting the list, the building department would review the list and approve the occupancy for those types of events.

Mrs. King pointed out that it makes more sense, if they are going to the expense of putting the guardrail in front of the door, that it be something more permanent so it could be left there for all events.

Mr. Rowell commented that he will work with the contractor on this. He referred to two window wells on the east side of the building. He asked that a piece of plywood be placed over them so that no one steps in them.

Mrs. King stated she would like to see something more permanent there as well.

Chair Winslow suggested metal grates.

Mr. Rowell said that metal or wrought iron grates would be acceptable.

Mrs. King asked how they will know how many people will be attending now that it is a non-ticketed event.

Chair Winslow stated that there will be a need for a sign-up sheet. He explained to the Chief and Mr. Rowell that originally the event was going to be a formal dinner exclusive to adults. In retrospect, that is not the culture they want to develop in town. They want to have it open to anyone that wants to attend, including children. The second phase of this thinking will be Rye Home Day, which will be a larger event using Parsons Field and having up to 500 people in attendance. The Goss Farm event could be 100 people with picnics outside of hamburgers and hotdogs.

Mrs. King stated that they could have salads made from the vegetables from the Goss Farm gardens.

Chief Cotreau pointed out that in order to have people at a full sit-down dinner, there will be less people allowed. He stated that the vision of the event is what will dictate the occupancy level.

Chair Winslow commented that they are talking about 100 – 120 people with setting inside the barn for 40 and the rest outside.

Mr. Rowell stated that he would like to get a fire protection engineer to take a look at the site in order to make recommendations because they are talking 40 people at one time. There is apt to be 200 people going through the barn. This will increase the risk and liability.

Chief Cotreau agreed. He stated that he and Mr. Rowell think that it is fine and that they can make it work but there is time to get a fire protection engineer in to take a look and make any future recommendations and assurances.

Chair Winslow asked about the cost.

Chief Cotreau stated that it would not be more than \$400 or \$500.

Mrs. King stated that she would have to look at the Conservation budget to see if they could allocate money to this purpose. She also suggested having the meal outside and just doing tours of 20 people at a time through the barn.

Chief Cotreau recommended planning for the uses and events on a permanent long-term basis. The fire protection engineer could come and do the inspection as a one-time shot. He stated that he has contact information for individuals they could use. He will get the information to Mrs. King.

Chair Winslow agreed that this was the way to go. He stated that he has 5-6 people that are willing to help with the planning.

Mrs. King said that she still feels that even if they can't use the barn, there could be an event with picnic tables and blankets outside with food provided from the gardens to get people familiar with the property.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dyana F Ledger