

TOWN OF RYE – BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Rye Day Committee
Friday, April 12, 2019
3:00 p.m. – Rye Town Hall

Selectman Present: Chair Phil Winslow

Others Present: Conservation Commission Chair Sally King, Resident Linda Toumpas and Finance Director/Assistant Town Administrator Becky Bergeron

I. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Winslow called the meeting to order at 3:08 p.m. and led the pledge of allegiance.

II. For this year (2019), return to the original narrower objective of showcasing the Town (Conservation Commission) Goss Farm by bringing together townspeople to enjoy a meal, tour the barn/fields, and to celebrate Rye's semirural culture.

Chair Winslow lead the discussion by explaining the focus of this new event is different from the full Rye Day event that was previously discussed. He stated that Selectman Roman will chair the Rye Day committee for the event in 2020. He reported that he talked with Jaci Grote about the process that she went through to set up the barn dinners. He said that it could be a fund raiser for Goss Farm. He asked if they could use the barn itself, because renting a tent would almost make it cost prohibitive.

Ms. King pointed out that the barn dinners were harvest dinners in September. They used produce from the farm so it is better to push the event into the fall. Also, the Swallows are gone then so they are not in the barn if an indoor event is planned.

Chair Winslow agreed that the fall makes sense.

Ms. King stated that the barn dinner program works. She would be happy to do another one, if there are more people to help because they are a lot of work. She reported that there are a couple of pending issues that have to be worked on. One is to get the occupancy permit for the barn. She does not see any issues with getting that but there are a few safety things that have to be addressed in order for it to be used by the public. It is just a matter of time and money. She would be happy to take the lead on this.

III. Discussion on subcommittees and ideas for the event

Chair Winslow stated that after talking with Jaci he recommends one person talking the lead with set up with five or six helpers.

Ms. King pointed out that it will take about three to four days to clean the barn and set it up.

Chair Winslow commented another group would be the food preparation.

Ms. King stated that there was a prep/cook crew and a separate crew of high school students that did the serving.

Chair Winslow recommend another crew for cleanup.

Ms. King explained that in previous years, they rented the dishes, glasses and silverware. It has to be cleaned and put back into the trays. They also rented the chairs. The chicken was cooked on a grill. They borrowed the grill from the Buffalo Farm. The Buffalo Farm has been sold so they checked with the Lions Club and they have sold their grill. She is not sure what they will do for a grill. They may be able to rent a large grill. Ms. King stated that she had talked to DPW and they are going to look for a big refrigerator for the barn. The farmers want one anyways for when they harvest greens.

Chair Winslow asked if they would sell tickets.

Ms. King confirmed this and stated that they were sold at local businesses, as well as at the Town Hall. She stated that last time they limited the ticket sales to 50-75 per event. The wine and beer came from “Throwback Brewery” and Carl Snow, who is a wine distributor. They gave them a great discount on the costs. They gave out two tickets to each person, who bought a dinner, for two drinks each.

Chair Winslow recommended asking Bev Giblin to solicit for donations, as she has always done a great job in the past. He suggested doing the chicken and maybe asking Petey’s to donate coleslaw. They can find someone else to do potato salad.

Ms. King pointed out that last time they did the small potatoes on the grill. She also stated that if this is going to happen, she would ask Anne Decker to use her oven as well. The farmers said they would donate produce. They grow a lot of potatoes and would plant some pumpkins if they were asked.

Ms. Toumpas recommended trying to stay away from anything that has mayonnaise in it.

Ms. King stated that some of the Farmer’s Market people would likely volunteer to play music during the cocktail hours, as they have done in the past. She added that if the Goss Barn is not ready, she could ask Mark Joseph to host it at his barn. It’s a beautiful barn and the parking is excellent there because they could use Parsons Field. She told the group about the second graders planting blueberry bushes each year. She said that there is always a large harvest of blueberries available. May Soucie and her daughters made the pies and said that she would help again.

Chair Winslow said that he knows at least a dozen people that would help out. He commented that he has two teenage grandchildren that he could ask and they could recruit others. He asked Ms. King to be the point person for the preparations. He asked Ms. King if her husband, Tom, would be willing to take the lead in the grilling.

Ms. King stated that she was sure he would but they would have to take a look at his schedule.

Ms. Toumpas commented that her husband, Nick, would also help.

Ms. King also suggested Mark Epply. She said that four people on the grill for the chicken and the potatoes works well. They also served butternut squash that came from Mel Low's garden.

Chair Winslow suggested getting a group to do the cleanup. He asked who would be responsible for the renting the chairs and grills.

Ms. King stated that the Farmer's Market people where in charge of that before and she could get them together again to help.

Ms. Toumpas pointed out that a lot of the cleanup is done by the students that do the serving. As the dishes come back in, they are rising them and stacking them back into the trays.

Set a tentative time line

Chair Winslow recommended setting up a couple of Friday meetings and inviting some of the people that would be helping to attend the meetings.

Ms. King pointed out that from the 22nd of September on would be the best time to have the dinner on a Friday or Saturday.

Finance Director/Assistant Town Administrator Becky Bergeron reminded the group that if the event was on town property, there would have to be a licensed bartender from the company that provides the wine and beer to pour and serve because of the liability. She explained that "Throwback" could supply the bartenders and provide servers. The servers and the bartenders would be under the liability of "Throwback". Ms. Bergeron stated that she would check again with Primex.

Ms. King stated that they were told before, that even if it is on private property, they needed to do the two-ticket system so the alcohol has been limited. If they get the alcohol from "Throwback", maybe they could hire a bartender from there. She noted that donations will be important because it costs approximately \$2,000 to put one of these dinners on.

Chair Winslow pointed out that if there are 60 tickets sold, at \$50.00 a piece, that would be \$3,000 but that is not money in advance, which will be an issue.

Ms. King stated that in the past the Farmer's Market people put the money up front and was reimbursed as the tickets sold and the balance was donated to the Conservation Commission. The Farmer's Market people have disbanded.

Ms. Bergeron pointed out if Bev Giblin can get the donations started in advance it would work. She asked if anyone could think of someone that would partner with the town in order to put this on. They could bear the burden of the expense up front and then be reimbursed.

Ms. Toumpas suggested asking a local town business, such as Atlantic Grill. She pointed out that they are very big with working and donating to non-profits and community affairs.

IV. Tour Goss Farm Barn at the end of meeting (pending Sally King being available to conduct the tour)

ADJOURNMENT

The group left the meeting at 3:45 p.m., to be continued at the Goss Farm Barn for a brief tour of the facility.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dyana F Ledger