

Friends of TWCF MINUTES

March 10, 2020.

Silvano's Apartment at TWCF

Attending: Donna, Tatum, Toby, Barb, Sarah, Naomi, Silvano, Benjamin, Alayna

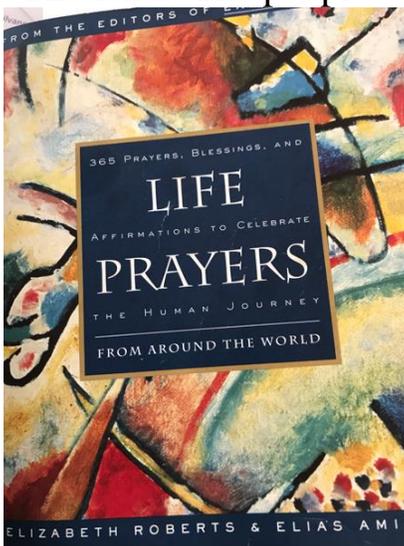
Action items are highlighted in yellow.

10:30am Opening:

Naomi lit the Candle

Silvano read two quotes: The first was 3rd grade capacity for thinking: You cannot have unlimited growth with limited resources. The second was

“The land. The people.” from Life Prayers by Elizabeth Roberts and Elias Amidon



The land. The people.
They are in relation to each other.
We are in a family with each other.
The land has worked with us.
And the people have worked with it.

This is true:

Working for the land
and the people—it means life
and its continuity.
Working not just for the people,
but for the land too.
We are not alone in our life;
we cannot expect to be.
The land has given us our life,
and we must give life back to it.

The land has worked for us
to give us life—
breathe and drink and eat from it
gratefully—
and we must work for it
to give it life.
Within this relation of family,
it is possible to generate life.

Silvano presented his report:

- The farmers will attempt to reclaim Gage Field this year. Gage field is owned by the school but we are authorized to farm it. Silvano has asked for a stirring machine to facilitate this because the farmers don't have time to stir preps. They aren't used as much as they should be.
- Manure for the compost pile was collected late this year due to inadequate resources. What can we do to correct this?
- In order to recognize Dane's contribution to the farm, he suggested a cash gift to help them with things they need for their new home. Alayna offered to collect the gifts. Will there be a joint birthday party for them later this month?

When we asked the farmers if they were happy with the budget, Silvano pointed out that one cancer treatment costs more than the entire farm budget, and Benjamin agreed, one person's treatment covers *an entire community's food*. The farm is under-funded.

Fruit and berry trees are not provided for in the budget.
Toby will be donating several fruit trees every year in Richard's memory.

Certification would cost 10K. Biodynamic certification would not help Benjamin sell more cheese unless the public was educated. Organic certification would enable him to raise the price because we'd be the only organic certified cheese in the state? If the calves were certified, we could sell them to organic dairies and insure they had a better life. **Seems to me this is CRUCIAL!!! Why are we no longer selling veal???**

Naomi asked if the budget included a fund for the farmers to use as needed, or if they had to clear every small expenditure. It seems to us that clearance for every little thing would be a productivity killer.... Silvano would like the farm to have a credit line.

The farmers will NOT be at the pledge meeting! The BOD thought the members would be more likely to openly discuss farmer compensation if they weren't present. We think this is wrong. **Silvano offered to be the farmer's surrogate** if the board will allow it. **Donna and I will present it to the BOD at tonight's meeting.**

The farmer's think they should not have to pledge and we agree. Naomi suggested the budget include a line item to reimburse them for their pledge. We have time to address this issue before the start of the next year.

At this point Silvano had to leave.

Regarding the pledge potluck, FOTFA will NOT have an opportunity to recount what we've accomplished, nor ask for member's emails. The planning committee is trying to limit the meeting portion to only what are essential – farmer introductions and presentations, apprentice introductions, and the pledge.

What we CAN do is create a poster to be displayed in the pledge room, the potluck room, and finally in the farm store explaining FOTFA, ECF, and FEC and providing details on getting involved. **Alayna will create the poster. Alayna will also create a YouTube channel** where she will document what happens in daily life at the farm!!!

Does the farm/farm budget attempt to increase productivity? For instance, why do we not raise enough chickens to supply not only the members (and we barely do that) but the school and our neighbors? Alayna would like to increase the profitability of the dairy. **We will be working with her on ways to accomplish this!**

How do we change the old paradigm wherein we can't ask members to contribute more? Growth is being stifled.

We decided to create a "Farmer's Discretionary Fund," funded by those members who would like to contribute, that the farmers can use for WHATEVER THEY FEEL IS NECESSARY without board approval! Toby will present the idea at the BOD meeting tonight.

We would like to know whether there will be U-Pick flowers this year. If there are, please include calendula in the mix. Naomi will coordinate an email to Elad with our 'wish list' of flowers.

Regarding photos of farmers and apprentices in the farm store: the bulletin board will be moved to where Silvano's peace flag is, the flag will be flown outside, in the parking lot, and the wall behind the veggie boxes can be used for the photos. Barb will print the photos – two per page. If the apprentices can't provide a photo they like, Tatum will take one. Barb, Tatum, and Naomi will coordinate on getting the bio's into social media.

Bee Box discussion postponed until next meeting.

The picnic tables are almost built!!!

We shared what we're thankful for.

Sarah led us in a meditation exercise.

?? blew out the candle.

The meeting ended at 12:00 but we hung around to watch Toby dowse vegetables. Every single one, including the eggs, dowsed blue-green!

Next meeting April 14, 2020