

The Southbury Training School Board of Trustees Meeting met in Eugene Harvey's Conference Room at Southbury Training School, Southbury, Connecticut, on Monday, March 28, 2011.

Present: Eileen Lemay, Chair
Louis Richards
Marc J. Taylor, M.D.
Ann Dougherty
Mark Cooper
Philip K. Bondy, M.D., Secretary
Eugene Harvey

Absent: Ted Walen

Guests: Sally Bondy

Eileen Lemay, Chair, called the meeting of the Southbury Training School Board of Trustees to order at 1:02 p.m.

MINUTES

All trustees via e-mail approved the February 28, 2011 minutes on March 4, 2011.

GUESTS

Eileen Lemay introduced guests of the Board of Trustees Meeting, Joel Serota and Steven Stirbl, D.M.D., who are members of the Woodbury Litchfield Hills Foxhounds Inc. This not-for-profit organization has similar goals as that of the CT Farmland Bills and is dedicated to preserving and enjoying our natural resources and heritage while enjoying the centuries-old country life activity of riding to hounds. Riders on horseback follow foxhounds as they chase an artificial scent over a dragline. Their current location is in Bethlehem on land that is now for sale. The organization's proposal to the Board for using STS farmland includes 1) allowing the removal of their existing kennel, a 10' x 38' structure, to the property that is directly in front of the concrete silage pens; and 2) allowing the use of an existing garage/storage building that is most suited to their current needs. Volunteers of the organization would make necessary renovations to this building under the advice of an engineer. All utilities will be the responsibility of the organization, including supplying insurance.

Concerns from the Board:

1. Would the hounds live on the property and how would they be protected? A total of twelve hounds would be housed permanently in their kennel and in a contained area with supervision by the organization on a daily basis.
2. Would any barking from the dogs create a nuisance to neighbors? The dogs are well cared for and barking would not be a problem.
3. With the use of horses for the hunt, where would the horse trailers park? There would be ample space for parking in the area for the trailers as well as for any spectators.
4. When are the hunts? The hunts are on Sundays, and are often held in surrounding towns in addition to being held on STS property. The hunting season begins after the fall harvest and ends with the spring planting.
5. The status of the water tower which would be used by the organization is in question. Southbury Training School will not be able to maintain the water supply after this year. The Director will review this issue with the agency engineer.

Following further discussion, the board decided to investigate the organization further with Dr. Taylor volunteering to supply additional information at the next BOT meeting in April before voting on their proposals.

COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

Lou Richards reported on the recent meeting of the council. Commissioner Peter O'Meara was congratulated on his retirement and thanked for his years of dedicated service to the Department. Dr. Bondy added that Bill #529 is being considered by the Legislature, which would develop an Autism Program. His only concern was that the funding for this project would be at the expense of other DDS programs. The minutes for this meeting can be obtained by going to the DDS web site: <http://www.ct.gov/dds> clicking on the Boards & Councils link, and then on the Council for Development Services.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Projected Two-Year Plan for STS Update:

Eugene Harvey distributed maps of the STS campus which clearly showed the buildings currently closed and the buildings projected to close under the two-year plan. The Health Care Unit will be closed by July 1, 2011 and relocated to Cottage 42. The Clinics (Dental, Regular and X-ray) will be relocated to Roselle. The OT/PT Department will be relocated to an unoccupied building in the Girl's Village (which include Cottages 2,5,9 and 11). In April the residents of Cottage 42 will be relocated temporarily to C-33, and then to Cottage 7A in May (their permanent home). All staff in these buildings will move with the residents.

Commission on Enhancing Agency Outcomes:

Eugene reviewed this committee's purpose regarding its plan to deinstitutionalize the residents of Southbury Training School. It was noted that a parent or guardian was not included as a representative on the committee. Eugene conducted a tour of STS with Senator Michael A. McLachlan from the Twenty-Fourth District, and discussed this issue. Senator McLachlan will also help by ensuring that guardians are represented on the committee.

Cottage 18:

The residents of Farm I will be moving to Cottage 18 during the third week in April, with an Open House being planned the weekend prior to their move. The date and time will be distributed to the Board once it is announced.

Private Providers:

Several private providers have been touring the STS campus. The main purpose of this activity is a result of the Settlement Agreement. In the Agreement, parents/guardians are urged to look at various private provider facilities. In addition, DDS felt it was important that these providers observe what is offered at STS for our residents, in order to be able to provide the same or equivalent services. The next Parties Meeting will be held at STS and following the meeting, Eugene will conduct a tour of the campus.

Cottage 1:

Eugene Harvey announced Cottage 1 will be closed as of May 30, 2011. All parents/guardians will be notified on Tuesday, March 29, 2011.

OLD BUSINESS

Dr. Marc Taylor – CT Farmland Bill #5203 Update:

This bill was voted out by the Environment Committee and is now going through the legislative process. The bill would authorize the State to grant an agricultural conservation easement to a non-profit organization (such as the Southbury Land Trust) over the land not being utilized by STS. Conservation easements save land from development and keep it in agriculture or open space. This bill could preserve as much as 1,100 acres of the Training School's land and could be the first step toward preserving much more farmland in the State.

NEW BUSINESS

The next meeting of the STS Board of Trustees will be **Monday, April 25, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. in the STS Director's Conference Room.**

There being no further business, Eileen Lemay moved the meeting adjourn at 2:22 p.m., Mark Cooper seconded. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Webb, Recording Secretary

Philip K. Bondy, M.D., Secretary

Approved by the STS Board of Trustees
March 31, 2011