

August 2023 Østgarðr Commons Minutes

The monthly commons meeting was held August 16th, 2023. Here are the minutes as recorded by Mathghamhain Ua Ruadháin.

Attendance

Present

- Angelica di Nova Lipa, Vicereine
- Sofya Gianetta di Trieste, Vicereine
- Nagashima Ichiro Ujimichi (Uji), Seneschal
- Alienor Salton (Piglet), Exchequer and Whyt Whey Seneschal
- Drasma Dragomira, Herald
- Friderich Grimme, Webminister
- Zahra de Andaluzia, Chronicler
- Lada Monguligan, Social Media Officer
- Albrecht Anker, Chatelaine
- Kunigunde Wedemann, Chancellor Minor
- Vitasha Ivanova doch', Minister of Lists
- Alexander MacLachlan (Alec), Fencing Marshal
- Mathghamhain Ua Ruadháin, Historian
- Arnora Ketilsdóttir, Brokenbridge Seneschal
- Iola Wulfsdóttir, Lions End Seneschal
- Catelin Straquhin
- Oliver deBainbrig
- Jenna Childslayer
- Ragnarr Bliskegg
- Perez ben Meir Gershon
- Illia Aleksandrovich
- Gibbs Moryss

Absent Officers

- Ervald LaCoudre, Armored Combat Marshal
- Meadhbh mac Pharláin, Northpass Seneschal

Opening

Uji:

- Meeting called to order at 7:31pm.
- [Harassment & Bullying Policy](#) displayed and read.
- Volunteers solicited for recording of minutes.

Vicereines

Angelica:

- There were many people recognized at Pennsic for their accomplishments, including:
- Ibrahim, Silver Crescent
- Hrefna, Seahorse
- Arnora, Sea Dog
- Lada, Silver Lantern
- Samson, Chivalry
- Albrecht, Squire
- Ragnarr, Man at Arms
- Lada, Durga
- Perez, Unbelted Champion

Angelica:

- Thanks to Ozurr for keeping me from rolling down the hill during Pennsic provincial court.

Sofya:

- Thanks to Brandr for securing flat land for our camp.
- Thanks to Mathghmahin, Alienor, and Alax for camp setup and pack-down.
- So many people contributed to making the camp a welcoming place that was appreciated by all.

Newsletter

Zahra:

- Next issue of the newsletter will be published on September 1.

- Please send me material for inclusion — articles, stories, artwork, photos and more!

Barleycorn

Albrecht:

- The Armored Combat Championship moved from Cloisters to Barleycorn.
- Expected around 2:30 on Saturday afternoon.
- We're including past champions in the rotation, not to win but to add challenge.

Alexander:

- I will visit the site to work on planning. Perez is also assembling plans.
- Setup will happen on Friday before the event on Saturday.
- It is a holiday weekend, which is a challenge, but hopefully we'll still have a good turnout.
- We need volunteers for basically everything.
- Alienor and Francisco are handling gate.
- We could also use a Google doc to organize a volunteer schedule.
- No merchants.
- Dry site.
- Other than that, things are on track.
- *Friderich:* I will work on a web page for the event, and will have a bunch of questions for you.

Queens Farm

Catelin:

- I'm now working with Aden at Queens Farm, who replaced our previous contact, Sarah.
- I wanted to trim our participation down to one day considering the other events in the weeks before and after, but they're adamant about us being there for both days.
- I was thinking about something smaller, immersive, with persona role play, which might capture people who are interested in history.
- At least one fighter has expressed interest in having a practice on site, which would be nice but needs support and a marshal.
- Gladiators NYC is also interested in participating.
- *Sofya:* I think we should bow out and focus our events on Barleycorn.

- *Mathghamhain*: Queens Farm has previously suggested we could get space from them, but never came through; we could press them about this. Also, make sure that there's no confusion about Gladiators NYC operating under the auspices of the SCA, as our insurance and other paperwork does not cover it.
- *Jenna*: They have repeatedly offered space but then only made inconvenient times available ("how about one hour on Thursday evening"). We could press them for a better accommodation.
- *Friderich*: The only upside I see to Queen Farm is that it's an easy way for newcomers to meet up with us in a public space, but given the McCarren practice that's now superfluous.
- *Lada*: Yes, in the past I have tried to arrange use of their space and they only would make it available on weeknights. The only upside is that we can use their space for archery and thrown weapons practice in the city.
- *Friderich*: The space they place us has archery shooting towards a school yard and given that they now have activities on the weekends, it doesn't seem particularly safe.
- *Catelin*: I'm working with them on questions about archery, as well as about fires.
- *Sofya*: Given our placement, the communications, and the timing, I'm not convinced it's worth it.
- *Jenna*: Over the last several years, the midway of carnival rides has encroached and made us less visible. Attracting foot traffic has required a lot of effort. If we do this we should insist that there's signage to direct people to us.
- *Catelin*: My sense is that we're not excited about this. I propose we skip it.
- [Vote held, with a large majority voting in favor of canceling our participation.]

King's County Fiber Festival

- *Uji*: We still don't have a steward for this event.
- *Ragnarr*: I'd love to see us continue but I can't run it this year due to a family obligation.
- They will discount our space to \$215 because we are a returning exhibitor.
- I'm not sure we recruited anyone last year, but we did get our name out. Maybe in the long run this would build awareness.
- We did generate a bunch of social media followers as a result of last year's demo.
- *Albrecht*: We might have better results if we were placed better.
- *Ragnarr*: They said that if we returned they would give us a better space as we were so popular.
- *Catelin*: If you'll handle the paperwork, Ragnarr, I'll handle the on-site logistics.

- *Sofya*: Last year we had an online class that we promoted for people to attend next. We should organize something similar this year.
- *Uji*: So we have staffing for it, and just need to decide about the budget.

Goat's Inn

- *Oliver*: Preparations for this are coming along.
- I have a cook, and a few instructors, but would like more teachers.
- The general theme is preparing for winter, but you can diverge from that.
- If you're interested in teaching, please let me know.
- *Sofya*: This date is the same as the date of the investiture of An Dubh, as that was the only date that their Highnesses were available.
- *Uji*: Would it be possible to reschedule our event?
- *Oliver*: It's almost certainly too late to reschedule.
- *Kunigunde*: Rescheduling would also be awkward for me and perhaps for other staff.
- *Friderich*: If we canceled and rescheduled, would we lose the money for our site fee?
- *Oliver*: Yes.
- *Friderich*: So it probably makes financial sense to move forward with the event regardless.
- *Oliver*: This event has repeatedly run into problems, including last year's water-main break.
- *Catelin*: I'm in favor of moving forward with the event as it might attract a different audience than the investiture, such as local newbies.
- *Kunigunde*: I think the events are far away enough that they attract different audiences.
- *Uji*: I'm not proposing that we cancel the event.
- *Oliver*: The event costs us about \$2,000, so we only need a few dozen people to break even.
- *Jenna*: I think we can promote Goat's to nearby groups in Connecticut and others to the north.
- *Friderich*: We could also promote Goat's to newcomers in the city by advertising its accessibility via transit. Also Lilli and I just discovered that we have a bunch of garb that no longer fits us that could be given away.

Mermaid Parade

- *Uji*: Let's discuss this when it gets closer.

Activities

Uji:

- McCarren Park practice continues every Tuesday.
- August A&S night has been canceled
- August 27, 11 AM: Armor repair day, at Ragnarr's house, contact him for the address.

Regional Events

- August 26: Arrows, Axes and Ales - Barony of An Dubhaigeainn - Middle Island, NY
- August 31: East Kingdom Curia (Ethereal)
- September 3: Bhakail Champions - Barony of Bhakail - Newtown Square, PA
- September 9: Carolingia 50th Year Celebration - Barony of Carolingia - Westford , MA
- September 16: Ducal Challenge - Shire of Midland Vale - Port Jervis, NY
- September 16-17: Lakewood Ren-Faire - Barony of Carillion - Lakewood, NJ
- September 22-24: River Wars - Barony of Iron Bog - Mullicia Hill, NJ
- September 29-October 1: Bloodfeud In The Danelaw - Shire of Coldwood - Peru, NY
- October 8: Ghosts, Ghouls, and Goblins - Barony of Carillion - Manalapan , NJ
- October 14: Coronation of Matthias and Æsa Feilinn - Province of Malagentia - Portland, ME
- October 21: St. Andrew & Baronial Investiture - Barony of An Dubhaigeainn - Middle Island, NY
- November 4: Crown Tourney

Other Business

- *Oliver:* Has there been any news about Northpass?
- *Uji:* A meeting is being held soon, either in-person or online.
- *Friderich:* Someone told Meadhbh, the canton seneschal, that a charter was required before the first meeting, delaying organization. Finding a public location for an in-person meeting is a challenge.
- *Alexander:* Could they use a local library?
- *Friderich:* They know about the likely options and are looking into it.

Closing

- Meeting closed at 8:24.