

**Friends of the Central Experimental Farm
Amis de la Ferme expérimentale centrale**

**Virtual Meeting of the Board of Directors
1:30 p.m., July 21, 2021**

PRESENT: Deborah Higdon-LeBlond, Richard Hinchcliff, Eric Jones, Randy Taylor, Shirley Ewen, Susan Kehoe, Robert Stuart, Donna Pape

ABSENT: Dell Durnin, Blaine Marchand

AGENDA:

- **MOVED by Shirley Ewen and SECONDED by Susan Kehoe THAT the agenda be adopted. CARRIED.**

MINUTES:

- **MOVED by Rob Stuart and SECONDED by Susan Kehoe THAT the minutes of the June, 2021 meeting be approved. CARRIED.**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Eric

- All AgCan Staff in contact with FCEF volunteers have been vaccinated.
- The tree tours have been successful with 20 participants. The number will increase as COVID restrictions are relaxed.

TREASURER'S REPORT/FINANCIAL ISSUES – Randy

- FCEF finances are in a good position. Membership income and donations have increased over last year.
- **MOVED by Randy Taylor and SECONDED by Susan Kehoe THAT the Board approve the financial report as of June 2021. CARRIED.**
- Cost of the Financial Review for 2021 by Baker Tilley will be \$6,100. **MOVED BY Randy Taylor and Seconded by Susan Kehoe that we ask Baker Tilley to carry out the Financial Review for 2021. CARRIED.**

PROJECTS AND FRIENDS

- **Bench Project:** Deborah – Benches will be moved back on the cement pad thus the size of the pad will not have to be increased. AAFC staff have requested the Friends look into embossing of the cement pad and that the pads be installed lower in the ground, and agreed to store the benches if they arrive before they can be installed. Dates for the arrival of the benches and for the installation to be determined. A search is on for a new Bench Coordinator.
- **Pumpkin Patch Event:** Susan – The team met on June 30 and the next meeting is in two weeks. The date selected for the event is October 2, 2021. The activities will be kept simple so that COVID regulations can be met. Donna and Susan will write a summary of the

event which Eric will present to AAFC for consideration.

- **Book project:** Richard – A grant of \$2,000 was provided by Heritage Ottawa. The book is in the final stages and is to go to the printer by August 27 and will be delivered by October 20. A book launch event is proposed for early November.
- **Woodland improvement:** Eric – An inventory of plants is underway.
- **Garden tours:** Rob met with Michael Gauthier of the *Garden Promenade*. They plan to restart virtual garden tours in August. Next year they plan on-site tours and will announce that 2022 is the *Year of the Garden*. We are providing copies of our garden tour pamphlet, which is also on the website and can be downloaded. Deborah will note the availability of the pamphlet on our FaceBook page and in Farm Notes.
- **The Tree book:** no action.
- **Master Gardener lectures:** Donna – The lectures are over until the fall.
- **Greeting Cards:** The summer set of card is selling well.
- **Creation of pathways** between the gardens to facilitate visiting by the elderly and the handicapped – long term project.
- **Upgrading of the arches at the entrances** to and the fencing along the Heritage Rose Garden - long term project.

MEMBERSHIP –Deborah

- A total of 373 memberships, which includes 469 people.

VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT – Donna

- A request for adult volunteers has been made through **Volunteer Ottawa** and has been placed in **Farm Notes** and on FaceBook.

HOSPITAL WEBSITE PAGE – Deborah

- The Friends continue to get correspondence on this issue and have included some of it on the FCEF website.
- Two pages have been set up, one providing information on the new hospital and the second with citizen's letters and responses. Letter writers will be asked for permission prior to loading their responses onto the FB page.

OFFER OF LANDSCAPING by Martine Jaworski – Deborah

- Martine has offered a landscaping consultation as a promotion for FCEF. The board decided the best time to utilize this gift would be at the Plant Sale next spring.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Julie will be returning to work on July 27.
- There was some discussion about the Organic gardening group on the CEF.

NEXT MEETING

- The next FCEF Board meeting will be held on August 18, 2021 at 1:30 pm. Location to be determined.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Eric Jones, President

Shirley Ewen, Secretary