

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

**Virtual Meeting of the Board of Directors
1:30 p.m., August 18, 2021**

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

AGENDA:

- **MOVED by Randy Taylor and SECONDED by Rob Stuart THAT the agenda be adopted. CARRIED.**

MINUTES:

- **MOVED by Donna Pape and SECONDED by Blaine Marchand THAT the minutes of the July, 2021 meeting be approved. CARRIED.**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Eric

- The tree tours have been running well.
- FCEF needs a Vice-President. Suggestions welcomed.
- Eric will explore grant opportunities for FCEF projects.

TREASURER'S REPORT/FINANCIAL ISSUES – Randy

- FCEF finances are in a good position, considering the lack of fundraising activities due to the pandemic. Membership income and donations have increased over the last year.
- Two designated donations for 2021 are \$100 for the peonies and \$1,000 for the Shelter Belt. Blaine will discuss the Shelter Belt donation with Polly.
- **MOVED by Randy Raylor and SECONDED by Shirley Ewen THAT the financial report as of July 2021 be approved. CARRIED.**

PROJECTS AND FRIENDS

- **Bench Project:** Deborah and Randy - Sherri and Rick Haas have agreed to be the bench coordinators. Four benches will be installed next week. The pad size will be slightly larger and the benches will be moved to the back edge of the pad. The estimated cost is \$550. Randy will get an estimate from the contractor for the cost of moving the nine current benches further back on the existing pads. The locations for future benches will be discussed with Jeremy.
- **Pumpkin Patch Event:** Susan – The event is set for October 2, 2021, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and the name will be “Autumn at the Arboretum—featuring the Great Glass Pumpkin Patch”. Information will be included in the September Farm Notes. Ottawa Glass Co-operative have started producing the pumpkins. A team meeting will take place on August 23.

Following the event an article with pictures will be written for the newsletter.

- **Book project:** Richard – The pages will go to the printer by the end of this week. Storage will be required when the 2,000 copies of the book due to arrive on October 20. The launch date has been set for Thursday, November 4, 2021. Donna will reserve the two salons in the Neatby Building.
- **Garden tours:** The *Garden Promenade* group is restarting virtual garden tours, including at the CEF. Rob provided information about the Farm for the virtual tours. They will want copies of the brochure when the actual tours start in 2022. The Friends have yet to decide upon what role to play in live garden tours.
- **Woodland improvement:** Eric – no new info, survey underway.
- **The Tree book:** no action.
- **Master Gardener lectures:** Donna – The lectures are over until the fall.
- **Greeting Cards: Dell** - The summer set of cards is selling well. *Will print another set of the winter cards and select pictures for an autumn set.*
- **Creation of pathways** between the gardens to facilitate visiting by the elderly and the handicapped – long term project (Blaine).
- **Upgrading of the arches at the entrances** to and the fencing along the Heritage Rose Garden - long term project (Fiona).

MEMBERSHIP –Deborah

- A total of 375 memberships (43 new in 2021), which includes 469 people. Four hundred and eighty-eight non-dinner invitations have been sent out.

GARDEN REPORT- Blaine

- The report from the team leaders for the ornamental gardens was submitted prior to the meeting. The volunteers are happy to be back. Some plants have been stolen and others have died. The peony garden needs to be rejuvenated and requires a major replant. Some team leaders need more volunteers; other leaders want to maintain a smaller team. Donna will speak with the team leaders as we need to recruit younger volunteers who can take over as volunteers drop out due to aging.
- The water feature is very attractive but stones have been moved and children are playing in the water, as can be expected to happen. Some suggestions are to plant some barberry bushes in the area and move some of the fish to the Macoun pond.

PLAQUE FOR THE WATER FEATURE - Blaine

- **MOVED by Blaine Merchand and SECONDED by Shirley Ewen THAT FCEF purchase a 15 inch by 5 inch traditional bronze plaque at the cost of \$605 plus tax for the water feature. Approved.**
- Jeremy will oversee the installation.

HOSPITAL WEBSITE PAGE – Deborah

- The FCEF website has a page for the hospital plans and a second one for comments with the purpose of sharing information.
- Julie has been receiving a lot of e-mails about the hospital plans and Richard has agreed to take on the responsibility of responding to them.

OTHER BUSINESS

- We have received a children's poetry book and Blaine will review it to see if FCEF wants to promote it and sell it on our on-line boutique.
- Pamela Burns is willing to donate thirteen prints of the Farm. The prints would have to be evaluated by an art expert to determine the amount for the CRA receipt. Blaine will follow up and check with a contact who might be able to do the evaluation.

NEXT MEETING

- The next FCEF Board meeting will be held on September 15, 2021 at 1:30 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Eric Jones, President

Shirley Ewen, Secretary