

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

**Minutes of a meeting of the Board of Directors
May 18, 2022, at 1:30 p.m.**

PRESENT: Eric Jones, Shirley Ewen, Donna Pape, Dell Durnin, Robert Stuart, Randy Taylor, Deborah Higdon-LeBlond, Heather Webster

ABSENT: Richard Hinchcliff, Blaine Marchand

AGENDA:

- **MOVED by Randy Taylor and SECONDED by Deborah Higdon-LeBlond THAT the agenda be adopted. CARRIED.**

MINUTES:

- **MOVED by Shirley Ewen and SECONDED by Eric Jones THAT the minutes of the April, 2022, meeting be approved. CARRIED.**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Eric

Heather Webster is now a member of the Board. Donna Pape will be an advisor to the Board. We need new volunteers for the book sale and events, among other things. The Board discussed ways to reach out to potential recruits.

TREASURER'S REPORT/FINANCIAL ISSUES -

Randy presented the financial report; FCEF has a balance of \$122,000.

MOVED by Randy Taylor and SECONDED by Shirley Ewen THAT the financial report for the end of March, 2022, be approved. CARRIED.

Donna Pape was removed as a signing authority and holder of the credit card, since she was no longer on the Board. A board member is required for these duties.

PROJECTS UPDATE

- **Bench Project:** -Two existing benches have been vandalized. Deborah and Mark have repaired one. The second has been burned and will need some boards replaced. The supplier will check to see if she has some on hand, otherwise she will have to order them for us. A team will be needed to make the repair. The 2022 bench program is proceeding on schedule.
- **Building Book:** A good review was placed in the Heritage Ottawa Newsletter. The Ottawa Library now has copies, and it sold well at the plant sale.
- **Garden tours:** Thirty people registered for the lilac tour and sixteen turned up with three tour leaders.
- **Woodland improvement:** Have weeded some of the invasive plants and are preparing to plant.
- **The Tree book:** Eric and Roman will meet with Richard when he returns.
- **Master Gardener lectures:** Fifty people attended the ZOOM lecture on Painting with Blooms on May 17. The next lecture is in September.
- **Greeting Cards:** Nothing to report.
- **Creation of pathways:** This is a longer term priority, but a plan is necessary before a grant application can be made.
- **Upgrading of the arches:** AAFC may proceed with this project using its own resources.

AGM

Went very well with approximately sixty people in attendance. Alexander Reford was an excellent choice of speaker. Thanks to Blaine for the suggestion and making this happen. A suggestion was made that we consider a couple of the master gardeners as speakers for the AGM in 2023.

NEWSLETTER

Deadline for the next issue is May 30 and Richard would like articles ASAP. Suggestion for articles are garden tours, arboretum tours and appeal for volunteers.

MEMBERSHIP

There are a total of 405 memberships which includes 521 people. A discussion followed whether we should continue with the three month grace period given a member after their membership due date. There are pros and cons of making this change.

EVENTS

Plant Sale – Went very well. Approximately \$1,300 came in the day of the sale plus \$1,840 from the registration of plant vendors. Two clients complained of purchasing invasive plants but FCEF does not vet the vendors and it is up to the purchaser to know what he/she is buying. A qualifier will be posted prior to the next plant sale.

GARDENS

- Blaine is organizing several tours: The May 17 for students from Vankleek Hill was cancelled; May 24 for diplomatic spouses; and three peony tours on June 2, 7, and 9.
- Polly left Blaine a box containing information about the Shelter Belt which can be used for the Shelter Belt brochure.

AUCTION of the Ode to Experimental Farm portfolio—Nothing to report.

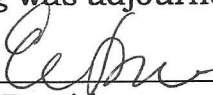
NEW BUSINESS

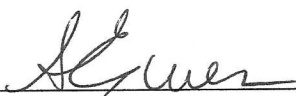
- A suggestion was made to feature one of the gardens in each issue of Farm Notes. Information for this can be taken from the brochure on the ornamental gardens. Regarding new brochures, it was recommended that Shelterbelt should be the next priority.
- In recognition of staff performance, and on June 1 (three month anniversary), it was decided that staff should receive an increase in salary. **MOVED by Deborah Higdon-LeBlond and SECONDED by Shirley Ewen THAT there be an increase of \$1.00 an hour in staff salary beginning on June 1, 2022. CARRIED.**

NEXT MEETING

Some Board members identified a preference for the Board meeting to be held in the morning, which is not possible on Wednesdays due to conflict with garden team work. The next FCEF Board meeting will be held in the 3rd week of June, the date to be determined.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m.


Eric Jones, President


Shirley Ewen, Secretary