

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

**Minutes of a meeting of the Board of Directors
August 17 2022, at 1:30 p.m.**

PRESENT: Eric Jones, Richard Hinchcliff, Shirley Ewen, Randy Taylor, Blaine Marchand, Robert Stuart

GUESTS: Donna Pape

ABSENT: Dell Durnin, Deborah Higdon-LeBlond, Heather Webster

AGENDA:

- **MOVED by Shirley and SECONDED by Robert THAT the agenda be adopted. CARRIED.**

MINUTES:

- **MOVED by Robert and SECONDED by Blaine THAT the minutes of the July, 2022, meeting be approved. CARRIED.**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Eric

- The recent Tree Tour went well with close to 50 people attending.
- The draft federal legislation drawn up to protect federal historical places was being evaluated.
- A decision was made to purchase two dehumidifiers for the basement rooms used for book sorting.

TREASURER'S REPORT/FINANCIAL ISSUES –

- FCEF has a healthy bank balance; the payment for the benches and installation was coming due shortly.
- The RFP for the 2022 audit was sent out to four accounting companies who are to respond by Aug. 29.
- **MOVED by Randy and SECONDED by Robert THAT the financial report for the end of July 2022 be accepted. CARRIED.**

PROJECTS UPDATE

- **Bench Project:** - the benches have arrived and were scheduled to be installed on Monday. The repair to the burned bench would also take place shortly.
- **Building Book**—nothing to report.
- **Garden tours:** - five tours took place this summer; in addition, Blaine arranged several peony tours.
- **Woodland improvement:** more planting was expected to take place this fall.
- **The Tree book:** Richard, Eric and Roman have scheduled a meeting to draft an outline and develop the project plan. Richard has approached a designer.
- **Master Gardener lectures:** One more lecture planned in September.
- **Greeting Cards:** No change.
- **Creation of pathways:** AAFC staff were very busy so nothing is happening on this project.

- **Upgrading of the arches:** - Jeremy had indicated interest in moving forward on this project, as have the Friends. The Friends expressed an interest in reviewing the design, as well as financial support. Regarding the plants: Fiona has agreed to take an inventory of the roses to help determine what needs to be purchased.

MEMBERSHIP –Deborah's report

- 403 FCEF members which included 525 people.
- The non-dinner invitations have been mailed.

EVENTS- Donna

- The Book Sale was to be held on Sept. 24 and 25, with Donna acting as the coordinator. A group of Venturers have been engaged to bring the books up and return them to the basement for a donation of \$500. The unsold books will be donated.
- The volunteer luncheon was scheduled to take place on October 5.
- Deborah has been working on wording to recruit volunteers and will circulate this to the Board members prior to putting the notice in *Farm Notes*.

GARDENS - Blaine

- Blaine was working with staff to ensure the plaque will be installed on the stone and placed in the rock garden as planned.
- Some peonies were not doing well and the plan was to replace them over a three year period.
- Steps were being taken to accept the donated day lilies, and to be collected, and planted in the gardens and around the buildings, as determined by staff.
- Some of the team leaders were not comfortable leading the tours and asking for donations. It was recommended that a \$5.00 fee be requested on registration for public tours. The need for more tours in French was identified. It wasn't necessary for all tour leaders to be chosen from our garden teams, provided they were informed and enthusiastic about the gardens. The annuals were lovely in August and perhaps a tour could be arranged at that time of year as well.
- MacLean and Associates Auction had expressed an interest in the art portfolio so Blaine will follow up. Another option was to donate the portfolio to the Art Bank.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Rob attended the opening ceremonies for the Garden Festival. Several activities were planned.

NEXT MEETING

- The next FCEF Board meeting will be held September 21, 2022 at 1:30 p.m. at Building 72.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.


Eric Jones, President


Shirley Ewen, Secretary