

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

Virtual Annual General Meeting
Wednesday, May 11, 2022, 7:00 p.m.
Ottawa

Minutes

ATTENDANCE

The members present constituted a quorum, and approximately sixty people were in attendance.

CHAIRMAN AND SECRETARY

Eric Jones, President, served as Chairman and Shirley Ewen, as Secretary.

OPENING REMARKS

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Eric Jones welcomed everyone and thanked them for their attendance. He asked that only members vote and to do so by raising their hand if they did not agree with the motion. The agenda and financial statements were posted on the website.

Approval of Agenda - MOVED by Randy Taylor and Seconded by Dell Durnin THAT the agenda be approved as presented. CARRIED.

Minutes - MOVED by Blaine Marchand and Seconded by Randy Taylor THAT the Minutes of Annual General Meeting, May, 2021 be approved. CARRIED.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Eric reported that the Friends were back to work in the gardens and the arboretum. He thanked all the team leaders, board members and volunteers. In 2021, the Friends had a limited gardening year so there was lots of catch-up to do. A new book **Building Canada's Farm** was published and was selling well. Four more benches were purchased and placed in the Arboretum. A new event, Autumn in the Arboretum was held, and the vendors sold out their stock in the first hour.

Looking forward to 2022, we have many programs beyond our garden work: our education activity includes book writing, garden and tree tours, lectures, brochures, cards and pictures. Beyond that, there are larger potential projects such as making the gardens more accessible to visitors. The Friends need new volunteers as there are plenty of opportunities.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Randy Taylor presented a summary of the Financial Review carried out by Baker Tilly. Their review showed that the Friends followed accepted financial rules and procedures, conditional on what they were asked to do. Randy reported that the fundraising increased in 2021 in spite of lack of events because we received a number of significant donations. Membership also increased.

MOVED by Randy Taylor and Seconded by Deborah Higdon-LeBlond THAT the FCEF 2021 Unaudited Financial Statements that has been reviewed by Baker Tilly be accepted. CARRIED.

Appointment of 2022 Auditors - MOVED by Randy Taylor and Seconded by Dell Durnin THAT an RFP be issued for the 2022 FCEF financial audit and that the successful candidate be appointed as the auditor for the 2022 financial statements. CARRIED.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION FOR TERMS OF SERVICE – Donna Pape

Donna recognized volunteers who have served for 5, 10, 15 and 20 years. See below for the list of these volunteers for 2020 and 2021.

REMARKS BY RILEY BROCKINGTON, Councillor for River Ward

Riley thanked the Friends of the Farm volunteers and board members for their work in making the Central Experimental Farm a beautiful place to visit. The parking structure for the new hospital is proceeding and he will monitor and make every effort to mitigate the traffic issues during the construction phases. He noted that Yasir Naqvi, MP for Ottawa Centre, had expressed the intent to protect the Farm from future development and that he and Riley would continue to push this issue with the Heritage Minister.

ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS

Election of Board Members: MOVED by Rob Stuart and Seconded by Dell Durnin that Heather Webster be elected to the FCEF Board of Directors. CARRIED.

The Board will also include returning Directors Eric Jones, Shirley Ewen, Blaine Marchand, Richard Hinchcliff, Randy Taylor, Dell Durnin, Rob Stuart, Deborah Higdon-LeBlond.


MOVED BY Rob Stuart and seconded by Blaine Marchand THAT the Board be granted the power to add additional Board members as appropriate prior to the 2023 AGM. CARRIED.

GUEST SPEAKER

Alexander Reford, director of Les Jardins de Métis (Reford Gardens) in Grand-Métis, Quebec, who is the great grandson of Elsie Reford, gave an interesting talk on three women who made significant contributions to horticulture in Canada. Elsie Reford established the Reford Gardens, Evelyn Byng was an avid gardener and plant collector, and Isabella Preston was a brilliant hybridizer and plant researcher. He outlined the contributions of each and illustrated how they had associated and encouraged each other over the years.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.



Eric Jones, Acting President



Shirley Ewen, Secretary

2020 - 2021 Volunteer Service Pins

5 Years

Sherry Elliot
Nancy Finn
Joanne Kingsley
Julie Lalonde
Christine Ljungkull
Gloria Murdock
Randy Taylor

10 Years

Kate Hadden
Nancy Wasserman

15 Years

Eric Jones
Denise Kennedy
Linda Lewis

20 Years

Jean Currie
Deepak Shah