

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

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Board of Directors  
June 21, 2023, at 1:30 p.m.**

**PRESENT:** Dianne Caldbick, Dell Durnin, Elizabeth Atkinson, Heather Webster, Eric Jones, Mark Vigder, Donna Pape, Christina Fiedorowicz, Linda McLaren, Shirley Ewen, Janice Tayles, Chantale Neapole

**ABSENT:** Cheryl Hutcheson

**AGENDA:**

- **MOVED by Christina and SECONDED by Linda THAT the agenda be adopted. CARRIED.**

**MINUTES:**

- **MOVED by Donna and SECONDED by Heather THAT the minutes of the May 2023 meeting be approved. CARRIED.**

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Eric**

- The Volunteer Appreciation event was well done.
- There's a need to pursue the Embassy strategy on books—Christina and Heather to follow up on leads.

**TREASURER'S REPORT: Heather**

- FCEF is in a good financial position, although timing affects the overall picture. Heather will review handling of the tree donor program prior to startup. Some items in the budget will need to be adjusted as new expenses are added.
- **MOVED by Heather and SECONDED by Shirley THAT the financial report be accepted. CARRIED.**

**PROJECTS UPDATE:**

- **Garden tours – Linda**  
A tour of the Macoun garden will take place on Friday with two leaders.
- **Tree Donor Program — Elizabeth**  
Mark is working on the website. Launch of the program is tentatively mid-Sept although many details still need to be worked out. Trees are planted and there are eighteen interested persons. The team is meeting on Thursday.
- **Improvement of the Woodland — Eric**  
There are a number of invasive plants in the woodland; some of the buckthorn was removed.
- **Tree Book — Eric**  
Still on schedule for 2024 printing.
- **Annual Beds Brochure**  
Will be postponed until 2024 due to the ice storm in April and thus the late planting of the annuals in 2023.
- **Long Term Projects —**
  - **Plant Labelling** – Dianne will contact Jeremy to talk about it.
  - **Other Projects** – currently on hold until AAFC is ready to address them.
- **Office Space** – Janice raised the need for a project to clean up the office, remove

unneded material and make more space available.

#### **EVENTS:**

- **Book Sale — Donna**

Book drop-off will be June 24 and the book sale will be Oct. 21 and 22.

- A need was identified for a **workshop** to brainstorm ideas for new events and projects. Looking for someone to champion this effort.

#### **GARDENS: Linda**

- The teams are busy working.
- A blitz will take place on Tuesday, June 27, to remove dogstrangling vine.
- Donna will purchase signs which will highlight the garden workers.

#### **VOLUNTEERS: Christina**

- A new volunteer (Louise Lalande) has been recruited for social media.
- The Friends are searching for a bookkeeper.
- Joseph Butler, a Social Worker with the Carlington Community Health Centre, may be able to provide volunteers for FCEF.
- A committee will be set up to review emergency procedures for the health and safety of volunteers. This committee will include Christina (Chair), Linda, Elizabeth, Chantale, Donna, and perhaps others.
- The insurers will be invited to make a presentation to the Board.

#### **MEMBERSHIP: Janice**

- 409 FCEF memberships, which represents 526 people.
- Janice had questions about the membership benefits listed in the letter sent to new members; further review and action are needed. Dianne will contact the garden centres from the plant sale to see if they would consider a discount to FCEF members and will contact the Agriculture Museum to clarify the 'one free admission per visit' quoted in the letter. Janice will make recommendations upon receipt of this information.

#### **NEXT MEETING**

The next FCEF Board meeting will be held July 19, 2023, 1:30 p.m.

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



Eric Jones, President



Shirley Ewen, Secretary