

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

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Board of Directors
Sept 20, 2023, at 1:30 p.m.**

PRESENT: Elizabeth Atkinson, Eric Jones, Christina Fiedorowicz, Shirley Ewen, Dianne Caldbick, Mark Vigder, Linda McLaren

ABSENT: Chantale Neapole, Dell Durnin, Donna Pape, Janice Tayles, Heather Webster

AGENDA:

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

MINUTES:

- **MOVED by Elizabeth and SECONDED by Dianne THAT the minutes of the August, 2023 meeting be approved. CARRIED.**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- A letter was sent regarding opposition to the Carling Towers project.
- Canadensis Fall Celebration is this weekend, Sept 23.
- The tulips have arrived and staff will be planting them soon.
- FCEF needs a Communications person or persons to respond to requests.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

- FCEF is still in a strong position although in a deficit for 2023. Donations are expected to increase later in the year due to Non-Dinner campaign and the CelebriTree project.
- **MOVED by Linda and SECONDED by Dianne THAT the financial report be accepted. CARRIED.**

PROJECTS UPDATE:

- **Garden tours – Linda**
Tours for 2024 will be planned in February or March. More tour leaders are needed. Linda will meet with Tourism Ottawa in the spring. The Board also discussed other opportunities for involving more people in our teams, including a team to track the bloom times is needed for the arboretum.
- **Tree Donor Program — Elizabeth**
The website was in place for the launch on Sept 12. Twenty-eight people have responded so far for the sixteen trees, and have been matched with choice of tree on a first-come first-served basis. Once notified by the CelebriTree team, those satisfied with the choice of tree and location will have three days to pay.
- **Improvement of the Woodland — Eric**
A few small trees have been planted. The team is trying to get rid of the buckhorn, and is looking to AgCan staff for suggestions for ground cover as a pilot project to combat invasive plants in selected sites (not necessarily in the woodland).
- **Tree Book — Eric**
A search is underway for grants and a publisher.
- **Boutique Sales**
No update.

EVENTS:

- The volunteer luncheon will be held on October 5 at 12 noon. Board members are asked to arrive at 10:30 a.m. to help with set up.
- The book sale is on Oct. 21 and 22 and the book drop-off is on Nov. 4, 2023.

MASTER GARDENERS LECTURES

- Procedures are in place for the 2024 lecture series.

GARDENS:

- The team leaders meeting will be held mid-October and tool cleaning will take place at the end of October. Garden team leaders will be invited to attend the meeting of the health and safety team in early November.

VOLUNTEERS: Christina

- The candidate for the membership strategic post has been interviewed. She wants to meet those she will be working with before making a final decision so a meeting will be arranged to meet with Chantale and Dianne.

MEMBERSHIP:

- 402 FCEF memberships, which represents 511 people. As of Sept. 20, we have received 74 donations compared to 160 in 2022.

IT SUPPORT ISSUES – Mark

- There are three roles to cover: technical support, webmaster and operations director. Mark would like some assistance; therefore, it is proposed that Christina look for a volunteer to cover the webmaster role.

STRATEGY SESSION

- Two options were discussed (dedicated retreat and successive one-hour sessions), and the decision was made to have a dedicated retreat. Dianne agreed to prepare a draft agenda for a dedicated retreat for the next Board meeting.

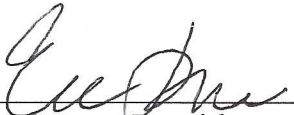
OTHER BUSINESS

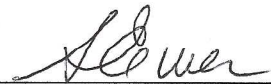
- Dianne debriefed the board on the Ottawa Planning & Housing Committee meeting on the Carling Towers project. The planning committee considered the Farm as open lands rather than a research area. The motion to approve the towers was slated to go before the city council in two weeks.
- The issue of parking for FCEF members and the public was briefly discussed.

NEXT MEETING

The next FCEF Board meeting will be held October 18, 2023, 10:30 a.m.

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


Eric Jones, President


Shirley Ewen, Secretary