

**FRIENDS OF THE CENTRAL EXPERIMENTAL FARM
AMIS DE LA FERME EXPERIMENTALE CENTRALE**

Minutes of a Meeting of the Board of Directors
Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at 11:00 a.m.

PRESENT: Lois Burrows, Christina Fiedorowicz, Heather Webster, Renate Fischer, Elizabeth Atkinson, Mark Vigder, Linda McLaren, Dianne Caldbick, Yves Garcia, Bill Joyce (office manager)

ABSENT: Eric Jones, Shirley Ewen, Liz Lumsden

AGENDA:

- The following revisions were made to the agenda:
 - Mark added an item regarding the Office Manager's annual performance review.
 - The scent free policy was deferred to the next meeting.
 - The order of the decision items was changed.
- **MOVED** by Lois and **SECONDED** by Yves **THAT** the agenda, as revised, be adopted. **APPROVED.**

MINUTES:

- Dianne suggested a few relatively minor edits.
- **MOVED** by Heather and **SECONDED** by Elizabeth **THAT** the minutes of the December, 2025 meeting, as revised, be approved. **APPROVED.**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Dianne

- Dianne reported on an email discussion between herself and Sylvia at AAFC regarding **parking**. It was agreed that the FCEF would accept their proposal for 10 parking spots. On board meeting days this will not be enough but board members can use their passes in the visitor parking spots or in the permitted spots across the road
- It was noted that we still do not have a signed **Licence of Occupation** agreement and this was raised as a concern. To this end, Dianne will draft a note to AAFC to confirm the understanding that we do have a "de facto" agreement in which the terms and conditions of the previous agreement are still in effect.
- On the **wider relationship between FCEF and AAFC**, Dianne agreed to seek a meeting with Steven Ambrose, Acting Integrated Services Manager to ensure he is aware of our contributions to the farm.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Heather

- Heather presented the **preliminary 2025 statements**, including the December budget report. FCEF remains in a strong financial position, with assets of \$459K as at December 31, 2025 and net income of \$56K for 2025. Income generated from traditional sources (e.g. events, books) was down in 2025, compared to 2024.
- **MOVED** by Heather and **SECONDED** by Renate **THAT** the **preliminary 2025 statements** be **accepted. APPROVED.**
- Brief comments were presented on the **January 2026 statements**. The January statements have been reviewed and there are no significant issues.
- Heather presented the **Budget for 2026**. Cash requirements for operations are estimated at \$6K for 2026 excluding projects and \$33K including projects. The Budget will require continuous monitoring during the year, as a result of continuing pressure on our traditional sources of funding and potential additional operating expenditures required.

- **MOVED by Heather and SECONDED by Renate THAT the 2026 Budget be approved with amendments as discussed, and with ongoing review and revision during the year. APPROVED.**

ITEMS FOR BOARD DECISION

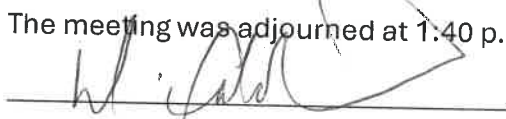
- The agenda item on the **Harassment and Anti-Violence Policy** was deferred to the next meeting.
- Item 5 of the **Objectives and Initiatives document** was discussed. One of the suggestions was to use “revenue generation” as a more generic component of this objective rather than listing all of the specific events that raise funds. The celebration of the UN Year of the Volunteer can also be worked into the document. Dianne will amend the document based on the discussion and recirculate it again. 5 minutes should be reserved during the next board meeting to hold a final discussion and vote on this document.
- Plans for the **Annual General Meeting** were discussed. It was agreed that a panel (armchair) discussion will be held instead of a keynote address. Liz will be asked to moderate. The panel theme will be “Our Core Business – Advancement of the Gardens and Arboretum”. This will be a ‘deep dive’ on where we want to take the gardens and the Arboretum in 2026 and beyond. Discussion of some of the challenges we face in this respect could be included in the panel discussion. One such challenge is the need to broaden the demographics of our volunteer pool. A special resolution will be required to authorize Numeris to conduct a review instead of a full audit. The next full audit is proposed for 2027, subject to further review. Heather will send expenditure details of last year’s AGM presentation to the AGM working group. It was decided that the order of the agenda will be changed as follows: 1. President’s Report, 2. Guest Speakers, 3. Treasurer’s Report. The remaining items will follow. By a vote of six to three, it was decided to conduct the meeting on Zoom. The date of the AGM was confirmed - Tuesday, June 9th at 7:00 pm.
- Christina showed **two posters for the UN Year of the Volunteer**. One had the board members and the other had a number of volunteers. These posters were approved. When possible, text used with the volunteer poster should point out that this is only a small sample of our volunteers.
- **Office Manager** – The Board is extremely pleased with the Office Manager’s performance. Dianne and Mark will interview Bill for the annual review.

ACTION ITEMS

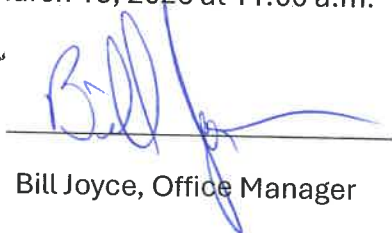
- Dianne will finalize the parking discussion with AAFC, will draft a letter confirming a de facto lease and will suggest a meeting with Steven Ambrose, Acting Integrated Services Manager.
- Dianne will also amend the Objectives Document based on the discussion and will redistribute it prior to the next meeting.
- AGM working group will develop a proposal for the Board’s consideration re speakers for the panel and specific topics/questions to be covered.

NEXT BOARD MEETING – Wednesday, March 18, 2026 at 11:00 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m.



Dianne Caldbick, President



Bill Joyce, Office Manager