

The Beatrix Farrand Society
Board of Directors Meeting
Saturday, June 28, 2014

Minutes

Attending

Scott Koniecko, President
Dave Hollenbeck, Vice President
Margot Woolley, Secretary
Dick Habermann, Treasurer
Peggy Bowditch
Emily Fuchs
Jim Fuchs
Carol Habermann
Neil Houghton
Mike Kennedy
Lois Stack
Michaela Ward

Absent

Julia Leisenring
Isabel Mancinelli

Scott Koniecko called the meeting to order at 10:07 AM.

Minutes for the May 24, 2014 meeting were approved as written.

Neil Houghton gave the **Nominating Committee Report**, stating that he would hold a Nominating Committee meeting soon. Scott asked Board members to identify potential candidates to serve as new Board members, and to forward suggestions on to the Nominating Committee.

Reporting for the **Development Committee**, Mike Kennedy stated that at the next Board meeting he would make a recommendation for consolidating the activities of the three BFS committees that relate to development. Neil stated that, by the next Board meeting, Betsy Hewlett will have developed an updated mailing list for BFS, which will include new names identified through the work relating to the July 20th special landscape event. Board members will review the list and add additional appropriate names.

Dave Hollenbeck gave the **Collections Committee Report**. Dr. Lee Taylor and his wife Jane, retired Horticulturalists from Michigan State University, have donated to BFS several volumes specific to the flora and geology of Mount Desert Island and Maine, as well as a few volumes that will help fill out our Morning Room Collection. Dr. Taylor is professor emeritus of the Department of Horticulture at MSU, and Mrs. Taylor was founding curator of the Michigan 4-H Children's Garden on the MSU campus and an adjunct faculty member in the Horticulture Department. The couple retired to Cape Elizabeth 7 years ago, and formerly had a small cottage on MDI.

Scott thanked Gerry Vasisko and Margot Woolley for hanging the wonderful collection of prints recently donated by the five children of Roger Milliken. The forty historic prints were formerly

owned by Beatrix Farrand and displayed at Reef Point. Roger Milliken purchased them from her in the 1950's.

Michaeleen Ward reported on the **Programs Committee's** June 9th Lavender Workshop. Lorie Costigan of Glendarragh Lavender Farm in Appleton Maine gave advice on growing lavender and identified types of lavender that will grow well in Maine. She donated a book and plants for a raffle, and also brought additional plants to sell. The program had twenty-six attendees, and the raffle raised \$191 for Garland Farm. Unfortunately there was a computer problem setting up for the presentation. Dave volunteered to give Michaeleen some ideas for handling PowerPoint presentations using different types of software to minimize the potential for this kind of problem in the future. There was a brief discussion on whether BFS should give speakers a small honorarium or gift in specific cases, and this will be further considered in putting next year's summer programs together.

On July 7th there will be a program titled "What Is Happening to Bats on Mount Desert Island?" Several organizations with constituencies that would have an interest in bats were identified for attendee outreach. The Board commended Michaeleen for her excellent management of the Programs Committee.

Emily Fuchs gave the **Docents and Tours Committee Report**. On June 24 she and Jim Fuchs held a BFS Docent Orientation Program for 7 docents. The program included a PowerPoint presentation, tour of the grounds and Farrand Wing, a folder of hand-outs, and a luncheon. June 21, two visitors were given a Docent-led tour of Garland Farm.

Emily showed the Board a number of items she had acquired that had previously belonged to Beatrix Farrand. These included a compass, an ivory thermometer, and a pen knife which the Fuchs would like to donate to BFS once an appropriate display case has been installed. Emily also showed the Board a book with photographs of other Beatrix Farrand items she has purchased over a number of years; these items also could become a part of the display.

Dave Hollenbeck gave the **Publications Committee Report**. BFS currently has just under a hundred Friends on Facebook. In addition, twenty-one new site visitors have asked to be on the mailing list for e-news blasts from Garland Farm. Shirley Beccue has initiated work on the next issue of "E-News from the Beatrix Farrand Society" that will be sent to these web site visitors as well as members and donors for whom we have email addresses. Dave was congratulated on the high standards of the newsletter issued last month.

The **Membership Committee Report** was given by Jim. Based on the financial report, it appears that to date, more membership monies have been received this year than last.

Lois Stack reported that Isabel Mancinelli had told her to report that there was no report for the **Landscape and Garden Committee** this month.

Dave gave the **Facilities Committee Report**. The craftsman who will construct the wooden gutter for the Farrand Wing roof is still not sufficiently recovered from his injury to fabricate this item. The work reroofing portions for the Farrand Wing and installing the roof balustrade can proceed independently of the gutter, however, and Dave expects our contractor to start this work soon, perhaps as early as next week. John Collier, President of A B & J R Hodgkins, Inc. has been given the Garland Farm event schedule and will work around possible conflicts to minimize disruption

Lois gave the **Exhibitions Committee Report**. She stated that, following today's Board Meeting, this summer's 78 scanned images of the Heath Family of plants will be mounted for exhibition in the Garland Farm Barn. These images represent one of the plant families in the Beatrix Farrand herbarium collection that she donated to the University of California in Berkeley. Lois distributed both a list of the images of rhododendrons and their relatives that are included in the exhibition and a mock-up of the three-fold brochure that will accompany the exhibition. The Board commended Lois for her excellent presentation of key data and the brochure's design.

Scott stated that he will be contacting Carl Little, who has an excellent background in evaluating prints, to view and assess the 40 historic prints the Milliken recently donated to BFS. Roger Milliken purchased the prints, which were recently hung in the Exhibition Room at Garland Farm, from Beatrix Farrand. Scott hopes Carl will prepare a synopsis describing the prints that can be used as part of a press release, and also to create text introducing the exhibition. Jim Fuchs inquired whether it would be possible to obtain a stereoscopic device with which to view the prints, providing a 3-dimensional view of the prints' perspectives. Board members agreed that this was an excellent idea.

Carol Habermann reported on **Special Events and Hospitality**. The Committee is organized to accommodate approximately 40 guests for the upcoming July 1 Beatrix Farrand Birthday Party. The committee is also organizing an event to follow the August 2nd Annual Meeting and talk by Andrew Doran.

Dick Habermann gave the **Treasurer's Report**. BFS's finances currently appear to be in fine shape. We currently have approximately \$76,000 in our checking and money market accounts. Some of this amount is earmarked for the roof/ front façade/ entry garden work.

Dave gave the **Vice President's Report**. As he mentioned at last month's meeting, he has been collaborating with the Friends of Island History and History IT which is developing a prototype digital resource that will enable anyone with an internet connection to search for and access MDI historic materials. The initial demonstration of the prototype digital resource is scheduled for July 18th. The tree work for Garland Farm to be performed by Eagle Arboriculture is in their work plan, but they are very busy and a firm start date has not yet been established.

Scott gave the **President's Report**. He stated that BFS has a very hard-working Board and thanked Board members for their excellent work.

Unfinished Business

Neil reported on the **Landscape Design Seminar and Tour of Private Properties** program. The event will accommodate approximately 36 individuals in the trolley and minivan that will accompany it. Unfortunately a larger number of people have expressed interest in attending the event than the program can accommodate. The requests to attend include both people who have attended BFS events and or made donations to BFS in the past, as well as others who have not previously been involved with BFS. Having both categories of individuals attend is important for BFS. Neil believes this interest reflects a need to put together other quality program such as this in the future; he has several ideas for future events. A large number of respondees made contributions in addition to the ticket cost, and several people who were unable to attend the program also made contributions. The program committee for the seminar and tour will meet to finalize the program plans following adjournment of the Board Meeting.

Jim and Emily reported that after Elise Felton's death her gardener sought locations for some of Elise's plants and garden objects. Jim and Emily brought a planter with sedum from Elise's

property to Garland Farm, thinking it might be appropriate and attractive on the wooden cover of the well near the wild garden. They were seeking guidance from the Board on how to proceed, explaining that the planter could be moved to a property other than Garland Farm, or remain at Garland Farm for a short period of time or indefinitely. Some Board members expressed concern about whether it was historically appropriate for the planter to be installed at the historic Garland Farm property. It was decided to follow standard BFS protocol and refer this potential gift to the Landscape and Garden Committee for their decision on whether or not to include it at Garland Farm.

Emily provided an update on the planned children's program on bees to be held at Garland Farm. It has been decided that there could be three possible activities-- creative writing, a science project, or an art project such as painting pots. Children attending the program would choose their preferred activity.

Margot asked the Board whether they found it useful to have Committee Reports posted on our website prior to our Board Meetings so they could be reviewed in advance. The consensus of the Board was *yes*, it was very helpful.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 PM.

Submitted by:
Margot Woolley, Secretary