

The Beatrix Farrand Society  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Saturday, August 2, 2014

Draft Minutes

Please Submit Corrections at the October 11<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting

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  
Julia Leisenring  
Isabel Mancinelli  
Lois Stack  
Michaeleen Ward

Scott Koniecko called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM.

Minutes for the June 28, 2014 meeting were approved as written.

Neil Houghton gave the **Nominating Committee Report**. The following two members of the Class of 2014 have agreed to extend their terms:

1. Neil Houghton: Class of 2015
2. Lois Stack: Class of 2017

The Following four members of the Class of 2014 will be leaving the Board and have agreed to serve on the BFS Council of Advisors:

1. Peggy Bowditch
2. Emily Fuchs
3. James Fuchs
4. Margot Woolley

The following individuals, recommended unanimously by the Nominating Committee, have agreed to serve on the BFS Board for the first time:

1. Stephanie Burnett: Class of 2017
2. Vicki Goldstein: Class of 2017

The following officers still have one year remaining in their terms:

1. President: Scott Koniecko
2. Vice President: Dave Hollenbeck
3. Treasurer: Dick Habermann

The Nominating Committee does not have a recommendation of an individual to serve as Secretary, and makes the recommendation that, at the Annual Meeting, the Membership be requested to grant the Board the authority to appoint a secretary or secretaries as needed. The Nominating Committee also recommends that the Membership be asked to give permission to the Board to elect two new Board Members when candidates have been identified.

Mike Kennedy gave the **Development Committee Report**. He explained that development is more than just fundraising, and recommended that a comprehensive Development Committee be established. This Committee would bring together key activities related to membership, programs, events, and finance, with representatives from those areas serving on it. The Committee would develop a theme for special events, such as the successful July 20th program Neil created and managed.

The comprehensive Development Committee would include a Program and Events Chair, and there would be Major Event Vice-Chair who would lead major events, such as the July 20<sup>th</sup> program. Ideally the prior year's Special Events Vice-Chair would serve as an assistant and advisor on the following year's program. Developing an Annual and Three-Year Plan, creating a Mission Statement for the Society, and refining membership processes are additional issues the Development Committee needs to address. Board approval would be required for all major Development Committee decisions. A motion was made, seconded and passed supporting this concept for the Development Committee.

Dave reported on the **Collections Committee**. Robert L. Shafer of Northeast Harbor and New York City donated three books to BFS as a result of visiting the Society for the Beatrix Farrand Birthday Party. These are: *The Colonial Architecture of New England* (1901), *Old New England Churches and their Children* (1906), and *Colonial Architecture and Furniture* (1895). Scott reported that he had obtained a plan of Reef Point annotated with plant information and also stated that all five of Roger Milliken's children had been sent a note thanking them for their donation of the historic garden and landscape prints that formerly belonged to Beatrix Farrand.

Michaeleen Ward reported on the **Programs Committee**. Thus far the 2014 programs have been successful, with an average of twenty-four attendees. In July Bruce Connery gave a talk on bats and their decline across eastern North America and MDI, and Carrie Graham offered a sketching class. Upcoming programs include Andrew Doran's talk on herbaria, immediately following the Annual Meeting; Lynden B. Miller on the influence Beatrix Farrand on her career; Marta McDowell on Beatrix Potter, "Another Independent Woman named Beatrix;" Dr. Alison Dibble with tips on growing mosses; and a film, "Women in the Dirt: Landscape Architects Shaping our World."

Emily Fuchs gave the **Docents and Tours Committee Report**. To date, fifty people have taken docent-led tours this summer. Income from these tours has totaled \$270, with a contribution from a garden club still to come. Emily and Jim Fuchs have referred an undetermined number of people to BFS Open Days at the Garden Club of Mount Desert Open Garden Day and on other occasions. For next year, an updated tree list is needed, and Emily recommended that there be a system and supplies for copying tour hand-outs. Jim and Emily plan to develop a recording to which visitors may listen through a device, while walking through the BFS facility independently.

Emily also mentioned that Philip Moriarty has volunteered to lead the search for a BFS Manager when we have a sufficient endowment and are able to fund such a position.

Dave gave the **Publications Committee Report**. In July there was an article in the Mount Desert Islander on the Milliken family's donation of 40 historic landscape and garden prints to BFS. Dave also mentioned that, in July, a "News from Garland Farm" email had been sent to BFS

members and donors for whom we have email addresses. He plans to send out a second email update before fall.

The **Membership Committee Report** was given by Jim. He described improvements that could be made to BFS's membership management, including the development of a consistent method of identifying the membership year and flagging memberships for renewal.

Isabel Mancinelli gave the **Landscape and Garden Committee Report**. Due to difficulties co-chairing the committee, Isabel and Carolyn Hollenbeck have decided that Carolyn will be the sole Chair. Billy Guess of Eagle Arboriculture has completed the tree work described in the May Board Meeting. Carolyn and Carl Kelley have pruned a few neglected areas in the Garland Farm Entrance Garden and the forsythia next to the barn. Tom McIntyre did a great job maintaining the parking field during this wet season, and did an excellent job of preparing the grounds for the July 20<sup>th</sup> seminar. Brenda Les continues to maintain the wild garden, and additional labels will be purchased for woody plants.

Consistent weekly maintenance of the holding garden remains an issue for BFS, and heat, wind and heavy rain continuing to present challenges in maintaining the Terrace Garden. In addition, fungal diseases in areas of Garland Farm have been problematic this year. Slug Magic has recently been applied to the gardens to keep the slug population under control, and will be monitored. The College of the Atlantic gardener expressed interest in siting the hypertufa that belonged to Elise Felton on the COA grounds, and it has now been relocated to the campus.

The Board discussed the issue of a non-Board Member chairing a committee, as is the case with Carolyn. The BFS Bylaws do not permit this, although the Board feels it is appropriate. The Board agreed to present a resolution at the Annual Meeting seeking a Bylaw change.

Dave gave the **Facilities Committee Report**, and stated that restoration of the roof and balustrade on the Farrand Wing is underway, and completion of the gutters remains delayed due to the craftsman's injury. The porch side entrance on the Cape, which is rotten, is being reconstructed. Recent pruning of adjacent plants, creating a lower plant profile, should now increase ventilation around that area.

A.B. and J.R. Hodgkins will be asked to provide a break down of costs for future phases of the Farrand Wing facade rehabilitation, so BFS can make a determination on which element of the work to proceed with next.

Isabel reported on the **Intern and Scholarship Committee**, stating that there were no new developments. She believes that Abigail Parker, who now works for the COA's Peggy Rockefeller Farm, might help BFS draw broader membership.

Lois Stack gave the **Exhibitions Committee Report**, stating that the current Herbarium Exhibit had been well received.

Carol Habermann reported for the **Special Events and Hospitality Committee**. She and Scott discussed scheduling a thank you event for the four departing Board Members. After a conversation among Board Members, October 11<sup>th</sup> was established as the date for a luncheon event at Garland Farm.

Dick gave the **Treasurer's Report**. He stated that the Society's finances remained in good shape. The funds raised by the special event Neil initiated and managed will be very helpful for BFS's work on the front garden and entrance at Garland Farm.

Dave gave the **Vice President's Report**. The initial demonstration of the prototype digital resource created by History IT occurred on July 18<sup>th</sup>. Visiting the site at <http://foih.archives.com> will give Board Members a sense of what the future could hold for the Friends Island History collaboration. After more funds are raised, the prototype for the 18 island institutions will be developed into an actual tool.

The **President's Report** was given by Scott. He stated that Andrew Doran, as curator of Cultivated Plants at University Herbarium of the University of California at Berkeley, reviews large donations of books the Herbarium receives in order to determine which books his department should keep. Andrew has offered to let BFS make selections of any books we might like from the remaining books donated. BFS needs to review our library of de-accession some that are not directly relevant to our mission, and this, in turn would make room for new acquisitions.

Scott thanked Dave and Carolyn for arranging for and funding the BFS tree-work accomplished by Billy Guess. He was particularly impressed by how wonderful the property looked without the cedar trees near the Korean Stewartia.

Scott stated that this was a moment of transition for BFS. Gone is the ugly blue paint on the Farrand Wing and the dead garden of ten years ago! The house has been painted and received major improvements and the Terrace Garden has been recreated. BFS provided a wonderful program and garden tour on July 20<sup>th</sup> and the Garland Farm Barn is now a fine facility in which to mount exhibitions and provide training. Four individuals who made significant contributions to BFS are leaving the Board.

Neil reported on the July 20th **Landscape Design Seminar and Tour of Private Properties**. The evaluation questionnaires received back to date all rated the event highly, and everyone rated as "5" the value of the event versus the expense. The program began with several excellent speakers, and Lois set the tone for the program as a whole with her wonderful introductory talk. Neil was very appreciative of the vast amount of time and effort Dennis Bracale had contributed in both brainstorming and helping to organize the event. The program was not only a wonderful educational event, but was also successful in raising funds toward the restoration of the front garden and entrance at Garland Farm.

The Board thanked Neil for the major effort he had put forth in conceiving of this event and his follow-through with all aspects of its organization, a total process that had taken a year. As a result of his vision and hard work, BFS now has a template for organizing meaningful future events. There have already been ideas for programs for 2015, and for 2016, the year of Acadia's Centennial.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:56 AM.

Submitted by:  
Margot Woolley, Secretary