

Beatrix Farrand Society Board Meeting Minutes for Saturday, 23 May 2015

Present: Wendy Knickerbocker, Mike Kennedy, Neil Houghton, Michaeleen Ward, Isabel Mancinelli, Carol Habermann, Dick Habermann, Dave Hollenbeck, Scott Koniecko, Lois Stack; Stephanie Clement and by phone, Genie Thorndike

Absent: Vicki Goldstein and Julia Leisenring

I. 10:05 A.M. Call to Order

II. Review of Minutes of 11 October 2014

Minutes accepted

III. Committee Reports

A. Nominating Scott introduced and welcomed Wendy Knickerbocker, Genie Thorndike and Stephanie Burnet.

B. Development/Membership

Donors and members \$1000.00 or more become members of the Reef Point Circle, and will be invited to participate in an event in August. The group discussed courtesies and preferential opportunities that could also be offered such as:

an e-mail note that seating will be limited at the annual lecture at Seacoast Mission; the ability to invite an additional guest; preferential seating at lectures/events; Reef Point Circle candidates be added to the potential list for the annual event; Reef Point Circle members be admitted to programs without cost.

Mike suggests the need for more members and new ideas. Currently the emphasis on those interested in gardening is good but the need exists to expand the group. He and Dave have worked on an idea to include additional donors with significant means who wish to work to make the island community a better place.

C. Collections

Wendy Knickerbocker accepted the position of Collections Chair.

D. Programs

Program list is complete but bookmarks are in process. Michaeleen described each program, the complete list now appears on the BFS website. Newsletter may become composite of fall review of programs and spring newsletter will become a preview. *Out and About* mention includes an error, which will be corrected. Wendy and Isabel suggest publicity be extended to Castine and Blue Hill. Schedule has been changed to accommodate more people, particularly local gardeners; this year there will be an honorarium for the speaker of each program. The annual lecture will be self-sustaining and separate from program expense.

E. Docents and Tours

Jim and Emily Fuchs are arranging tours and have already booked three tours one from Australia.

F. Publications

Publicity tools to be retained:

Print and digital: Ellsworth American weekly and Out and About seasonal; Mount Desert Islander and Out and About seasonal; Beatrix Farrand Society spring newsletter

Digital

Facebook
Beatrix Farrand Society Web page

MPBN Community Calendar

G. Landscape and Garden

BFS to a new landscaping company, A.C. Parsons, for 2015. The decision has been made to address insurance and other needs. Parsons provides a much more flexible team, providing Workman's Compensation and liability insurance for all employees. Rhododendrons from Seal Harbor will arrive and be placed in the holding garden. Neil wondered if a program might be developed about the rhododendrons and their propagation so that eventually people might purchase them.

H. Facilities

Dave offered a report that included information about the winter weather and its affects on the building. The exterior of the road-facing side of the cape will require attention due to damage from ice dams. Snow and ice removal damaged the boxwoods and terrace garden trellises. Restorative pruning and trellis repair has been performed.

Deb Andrews completed a spring cleaning of the Farrand wing.

Work to do to restore and maintain the Farrand wing and the cape includes:

Entrance garden restoration and repair (quote in hand - \$19.4K)

Step fence replacement and repair (quote in hand -\$7.7K)

Cape and Farrand wing painting and window caulking

Rear of Farrand wing restoration (to be quoted)

Cape door replacement (to be quoted)

Shed Stabilization(need to investigate solution for water problem that is contributing to settling), repair, painting and staining Barn water damage repair, painting and staining

Greenhouse repair

Farrand wing accessible door area water damage

Landscape needs:

Tree survey and cabling evaluation needs repeating this year and annually

Stewartia needs shaping and Sargent Cherry pruning needed to clear the roof

Donated cherry tree removal from behind terrace garden to be done by Tom

Hydrangea to be pruned by A.C. Parsons - last done in 2010

Bird bath needs repair by Lunaform. Isabel was asked to follow up with Phid.

Pruning generally out of control - not enough resources to correct and maintain. It was suggested that a pruning workshop or workshops be developed with students and mentors performing practical exercises at Garland Farm

I .Exhibitions

Lois spoke of progress to date: the herbarium is progressing and being scanned. Scott described the vouchers as seeming to be 3D. Lois selected each voucher to be viewed this summer; this year's exhibition features the canopy of Farrand's landscape architecture of the garden. The barn will be filled with new vouchers and a brochure and plant list will be available. Isabel asked that it include mention of native and non-native examples. The work is Berkeley's first digitization, now they are digitizing the collection of John Muir. They said that Farrands' collection was notably beautiful, organized, and complete. Neil wondered if vouchers that overlap with plants at Garland Farm be might noted; Isabel asked that mention be made of the items checked by the taxonomist at UMO.

J. Intern & Scholarship

No report

K. Special Events and Hospitality

Carol Habermann reported that this year the birthday party will be combined with opening of the herbarium and has ordered a cake. For volunteers, there is a need for pourers - 2 for July 5th. On August 15th - there will be a small celebration. This year there is an effort to trim costs from the expenses for hospitality.

IV. Treasurer's Report

Dick offered the report with the amount for checking and savings at \$35,053.71. This, with \$670.00 received this week brings the total to \$36,028.71. Lorna and Dick ran a report showing +\$11,000. Some outstanding invoices remain but the amount represents good shape after a difficult year. Dick stated that the finance committee needs new members and that it offers a great opportunity for folks to work with experienced, non-profit experts. There will be a meeting in late June or July to determine which needs that Dave has identified can be funded this year. Fiscal year is calendar year now.

V. Vice President's Report

Since our last meeting...

Represented BFS as a member of Friends of Island History

Represented BFS as a member of Acadia Centennial Partners

“Ghost writer” for BFS 2014 annual appeal letter and 2015 BFS membership letter

Edited BFS spring newsletter (a work still in progress) and supported BFS web page development and maintenance

Provided periodic desk top, UPS, printer and A/V “tech support”

Visited Garland Farm fairly frequently to enjoy the beauty and tranquility (on some days) and observe what was being done and what needs to be done to maintain and improve the land and buildings.

VI. President's Report

Scott described the re-structure of the board meetings: in the past there were four, now three. Needed information is in minutes so that board members unable to attend can participate fully. Spring meeting is for new board members to become familiar with structure and work and to suggest others who might join on account of their strengths; orientation is focus. Next board meeting in August allows for emphasis of different proposals for discussion. Last board meeting of year will include answering the question, *How to prioritize the needs, and new ideas?*

VII. New Business

A. The Mount Desert Elementary School/Beatrix Farrand Society Education Proposal.

Mike and Dave described and outlined a display board of Growing Gardens, Growing Minds , currently in progress at MDES.

There is a need for on-the-island opportunities for young people to work outdoors and be productive. Mentors would be available for young people, making them available to local people who aren't able to afford contract gardeners. This would provide summer work employment for young people.

Target population is 7th and 8th graders at MDES who have an interest in gardening
Program Start and Duration Last week of June (last student day projected for 2016 is June 9)

Two half-days a week for eight weeks (half days would be a combination of workshops at Garland Farm and hands on time in the garden either at Garland Farm or at that of a homeowner

All sessions would include a group setting

Program Promotion

MDES educators, Bar Harbor and Mt. Desert Garden Clubs, Nurseries and landscape services, program specific booklets, *The Ellsworth American* and *Out & About* seasonal, *Mt. Desert Islander* and *Out & About* seasonal (Jill Goldthwaite article), Beatrix Farrand Society newsletter, Facebook, Beatrix Farrand [Society](#) web page

Potential Subjects

Invasive plants, native plants, beneficial insects, harmful insects, composting, dead heading, organic fertilizing, planting, pruning, weeding

Student Recognition

Certification of completion, BFS family membership

Challenges

Potential ability to meet an educational need but may not meet the need of parents working full time. Alternative programs such as Camp Beech Cliff, Harbor House, Neighborhood House and COA's Growing Season Program offer up to full day programs (8-5 at HH, 9-4 for CBC and NH, including before and after program child-care (at COA) and scholarships

Program development resources to develop the curriculum and workshop content, identify homeowner gardens for hands on experience and promotional materials, upfront expenditures are required

Program administration and workshop leadership resources will require ongoing funding unless the ongoing program is fully supported by tuition paid by the student learners.

Next Steps - Consensus was that BFS should proceed with exploring the program concept with a final decision to be made at the October 2015 board meeting

B. Carriage Roads Monograph

Description of the work of John D Rockefeller Jr. and Beatrix Farrand in minutes from October. Progress exists in this area and further details will be forthcoming.

Proposal includes \$20,000, William Rieley and Roxanne Brouse to come this summer and to return next year to do a lecture about the book. This book would be completely different from anything that exists.

C. BFS Achievement Lecture

Julia Leisenring is responsible for this event. Laurie Olin, the award recipient and lecturer, is finding time to come to BFS and is tailoring his talk to the Society. Special arrangements have been made at the Seacoast Mission to accommodate 100 seats and in another room that seats 40-50 people, a simulcast will occur. Portico provides roof so no additional tent is needed.

D. 2015 Seminar/Tour August 2nd

Dennis Bracale originated last year's tour and has graciously agreed to lead one again this summer: East Asian Design Influences on Mount Desert Island

Samuel C. Morse, professor of fine arts and Asian languages and culture at Amherst College, will speak on the topic of collecting as a reflection of the scholar, changing view of nature in the garden

Dennis will speak about ideas in East Asian landscape design and as an introduction to the following four places on the tour:

Garland Farm, Ned and Lily Johnson, Abby Rockefeller Garden, Dennis Bracale property, return to Garland Farm for reception. Approx. 12:30-7:00- limited to around 40 people.

Johnson house - eclectic, not East Asian, collection of East Asian art (part of East Asian garden)

Rockefeller Garden - East Asian art in home and brought out into the garden. How does it relate to the park or the garden? How does it reflect East Asian point of view?

Dennis Bracale property - East Asian modernist house, inner and outer spaces have all been made with an eye to the view

Garland Farm -

Mary Roper will attend the tour; so that at the Johnsons' and Bracale's houses, two groups will be formed.

A meeting to follow the Board Meeting was scheduled to discuss who would be invited and what will be charged.

Intent is to reach out to people who have the capacity to substantially contribute to BFS. Meant to offer opportunity to see gardens not open to public. Requested 250.00, but many paid 500.00 last year; total raised was \$25,000.00. Goal this year is \$20,000.

E. Expanded Herbarium

F. Quan Yin Repair and Identification.

Hand fell off statue, Quan Yin - clean break, can be repaired. Freshwater Stone is coming Tuesday.

Bob Ellsworth estate went up for auction and sold well. Chinese antiquities are valuable; Sam Morse will identify the Quan Yin when he is here this summer. Mrs. Archbold was presumably previous owner.

Scott described the lifetime achievement award medallion and offered specific details to the dimensions and text.

Meeting adjourned: 12:57

Respectfully submitted, Paula Moody