

Beatrix Farrand Society Board Meeting Agenda for Saturday 6 August 2016

Attending: Wendy Knickerbocker, Isabel Mancinelli, Michaeleen Ward, Genie Thorndike, Neil Houghton, Julia Leisenring, Dick Habermann, Scott Koniecko
Absent: Gerd Grace, Vicki Goldstein, Bettie Massey, Lois Berg Stack

Meeting called to order at 9:10 A.M.

I. Review of Minutes of 28 May 2016

Julia Leisenring moved minutes be approved. Neil Houghton seconded. Minutes accepted.

Scott Koniecko suggested that the board has discussed issues that were slated for review at the October meeting such as what the Society stands for and where it is going. The book by Roxanne Brouse will be ready in September and Scott suggested that instead of a meeting during the Columbus Day weekend, a book party be held to celebrate the book.

II. Committee Reports

A. Nominating

Gerd Grace has been working on nomination. It is awkward having board members begin in the middle the summer, the October meeting and May meetings are preferable for new board members attend the first meeting. Suggestions for people as potential board members may be submitted to Gerd Grace and a copy sent to Scott.

B. Development

Raised \$25,000 for the book; generous new checks have been received.

C. Collections/Library (See Report from the Collections Committee; Mission Statement for BFS Collections; Mission Statement for BFS Library and Archives, revised; Mission Statement for BFS Collections Committee, revised)

Wendy Knickerbocker read her report and described the reasons for proposing to separate the Collections from the Library and Archives Committee. Michaeleen Ward proposed that Wendy Knickerbocker step down from the Collections committee and head the Library and Archives. Genie Thorndike seconded. Unanimous vote. Wendy or Tom Hayward may serve on the new Collections Committee when it is formed.

BFS is searching for someone knowledgeable in this area as new board members are solicited and the board was reminded the person need not be a board member. Genie will reach out to Tim Garrity to request a person to assist with the formation of the new committee and its mission. Willie Granston will be contacted as well.

C. Programs

Paula Moody reported on Programs to date for Stephanie. Attendance has been steady and new folks are in the audience. Scott, Michaeleen and Julia spoke of the details concerning the cancellation of the Achievement Award Lecture at the Seacoast Mission.

D. Docents and Tours

Current roster of docents/volunteers is 12 with some folks assisting with programs, others serving during Open Days. There is need for a photographer to collect images for the website..

E. Publications

Book party - Scott suggests that BFS invite Roxanne Brouse to return and to give another talk during Columbus Day weekend. Scott described the ways in which Roxanne has selflessly worked on the Monograph. Scott will put together a book party. Costs for the book are \$35.00 for members; \$40.00 for non-members and \$5.00 for shipping. Wendy has the ability to contact academic libraries and will develop a brochure about the book. 1500 copies printed are being printed. There was a discussion of getting books signed at the party. At the next board meeting, Scott hopes there will be a copy of the book in front of them. He stated that BFS is learning a lot about how to do things. This work allows the Society to give an opportunity, in a responsible way, of supporting authors who are writing books that are making substantial contributions to areas in which BFS is interested.

Discussions are underway about the newsletter. Scott made reference to Patrick Cullina's visit to the BFS Board in October 2015 and his advice concerning maximizing assets.

Scott recommends tying in herbarium specimens with newsletter. There is a book coming out in 2018 on a noted herbarium. There are questions concerning next year's herbarium vouchers; they could be of either Maine natives or Reef Point.

B. Membership

Genie is trying to figure out current members and members have lapsed and clean up list management. Genie recommends Deb DeForest as a consultant to help clean up lists. There are errors in mail lists. Genie suggest that a category of member be developed that would include membership and registration to all programs. Discussion of new member categories might include one that includes a signed copy of the monograph. The seminar tour serves as the opportunity for Reef Point Circle members. Genie will create a new membership form.

A February deadline for program and events was suggested by Michaeleen.

Membership letter to be mailed in April with a follow up letter in May/June to people who don't respond.

Neil suggested that the database be sent to board members and that an opportunity to add potential members would be helpful.

C. Landscape and Garden

Isabel spoke of the Fuchs offer to replace the missing cherry tree before reporting about landscape and garden needs. Jasmine and crew are doing fabulous job; one clematis plant has failed again in the corner. Two roses that were thought to have been lost came back; Isabel suggests two for the holding garden. The fence is broken in the back where the clematis is growing vertically.

Entrance garden: Isabel met with Brenda Les. Discussions about the items in the garden and why they are there have begun. Brenda volunteered to work on the garden and she has most of the plants. Brenda brought the rosemary plants that are in the pots. Irrigation may become an issue but the committee will discuss that at a later date.

Tom McIntyre has suggested raised beds in the holding garden, which would cut down on maintenance.

Pollinator Garden Project Status (see Pollinator Garden report). Mary Roper offered that a lecture on native bees would increase the interest of folks interested in Beatrix Farrands' native perspective. She described a new meadow garden at Longwood Gardens that has generated much interest.

Mention has been made of 150 anniversary of birthday party by COA's development person, Lynn Boulger; Scott offered that COA might wish to take a good look at Beatrix Farrand's proposal for Bar Harbor and make suggestions of what could happen on the campus. Beatrix Farrand's work as a living legend could be expanded in this way.

D. Facilities

Fence promised for October 2015, then Memorial Day 2016, drop date was yesterday, August 10, 2016. \$5000.00 given as deposit on a job with an estimate of \$18,000.00. Mary suggests that a refund attached to the drop date be requested. Another contractor has been contacted about the raising the shed and placing a foundation under it.

Wendy mentions that housing will be needed for the herbarium specimens that will be taken down from the barn this year.

The culvert on the way to the holding garden creates a dam so that the wetlands near the shed can't drain. The culvert needs to be excavated and replaced. The increased water in the wetland is causing the shed to migrate.

E. Exhibitions. Discussion included locations to store collection materials. Garland Farm has storage space but it does not meet today's standards for collection materials. Scott will pursue Willie Granston and Brad Emerson as folks to approach about conservation of decorative arts of value. Laura Sprague was mentioned as a possible contact. Genie Thorndike mentioned the consortium the MDI Historical Society is forming and that a building to house archival material is planned. Neil Houghton described the arrangement that was worked out with the Fuchs.

F. Special Events and Hospitality

G. Huge success of seminar tour.

Karyl Evans has expanded an earlier film; she had been working on it over the years on her own. A BFS board member offered a generous donation to allow her to continue work on the film. The hope is that the film would be available on a loop in the barn for visitors. The target audience is garden clubs and other groups.

Beatrix Farrand Garden Association got a donor for their film. Lyndon B. Miller will be interviewing people about Beatrix Farrand. The full production crew will be here on Tuesday. Lois Stack will be interviewed by the crew and Scott will stand by as well. They are aiming for a national audience, such as the Public Broadcasting Corporation.

IV. Vice President's Report

V. President's Report

VII. Old Business

A. Pollinator Project (See report)

B. Monogram/Graphics
Scott will work on graphics.

VIII. New Business

A. Council of Advisors (see list)

One member of the advisory council suggested that the board may want to look at the list and either suggest names to be removed or added.

Annual Meeting

Meeting called to order at 11:19

Dick Habermann offered copies of the financial report and financial statements, which show the Society is in great shape. The new end of the fiscal year works well.

Balance sheet as of end of July:

Checking \$40,487.82

Money Market \$45,476.43

Gift (PayPal) \$1,490.56

Dick stated that it will take time to work out the situation with the fence.

The monograph has been paid for by donors and will be published in Iceland.

The back wall of the house needs to be painted and the funds have already been approved.

Endowment about \$114,000

Dick visited insurance agent about the increase this year and Hanover agreed to rescind the increase in premium.

The finance committee may need to look at the rental of the cape and determine its value and use and look to the future as to how that might change.

Scott asked that we all thank Shirley Beccue for all the work that she has done on the website. Thanks also be extended to Barb Steele for her work on the curated carriage road tour. Barb tirelessly continued through various difficulties. Lois Stack is leaving the board; a long list of accomplishments and talents was mentioned – most recently, the pollinator garden and herbarium and newsletter. Neil Houghton is also leaving the board; as treasurer he straightened out the books and is the architect of the successful fundraising events.

Meeting adjourned. 11:50.