

## Reversing Falls Sanctuary – June 17, 2019 Board Meeting

Present: Gary Vencill, Ann Ferrara, Martha Jordan, Kathleen Caldwell, Karen Adamo, Lisa Mazzarelli, Bec Poole, Daksha Baumann, Ralph Chapman, David Zachow

Lisa opened with a haiku by Asha Fenn:

deny yourself doubt,  
starve your fear and anger,  
live within your bliss.

Additions to agenda:

Bec: Accepting prayer flags from elementary school? Board agreed: unanimous yes.

Ralph: Possible summer gallery show (more below)

Approval of board minutes from May: clarification of current treasury balance. Hearing no further objections, minutes are approved.

Treasurer's report:

Jane Crosen contributed 40% of her sales from recent talk to RFS.

\$20,731.03 – general RFS balance. (Ann has another \$130 to add.)

Climate Conference Committee has \$7,000.

Greenhouse project has \$2500 (remainder from earlier activity).

Karen is not sure where we are with renovation bills. She has paid all bills that we have received but there may be others outstanding.

Karen is getting propane bills – still trying to get them to stop sending duplicate bill to Alison at BUMC.

Ralph forwarded to Karen last electric bill for payment. Plan is to have them sent directly to Karen;

Ralph will take care of the billing transfer.

Daksha – can't figure out how to get tax-exempt rebate from Amazon; will probably drop it, as it is worth only \$10.

Program report:

Previously circulated by Gary.

July art exhibit possibility (Ralph): show would relate to New Surry Theater's production of Diary of Anne Frank in July; Ralph has been in touch with Holocaust Human Rights Center of Maine in Augusta; learned of program that ships Anne Frank house materials from Amsterdam for remote exhibits; however, mailing costs are probably prohibitive (thousands of dollars). Ralph is still researching other ideas for expanding outreach and impact of the July New Surry Theater play. Notify Ralph with any further ideas.

Kathleen reminded Program Team members that if they want meeting minutes archived on website, they need to email them to her. She hasn't been receiving.

Building and Grounds report:

Daksha previously circulated written report.

Follow-up discussion on water testing. Daksha wants to get initial water test. Ralph believes that we don't need to comply with state regs. re/ ongoing testing for "public water supplies."

Gallery Within report:

Discussion of success of Rock Stacks show and possible workshop in the future.  
Possible fall 2019 show: Joy Biddle.

Daksha still looking for small group to organize art shows. Points out that art shows are a potential source of funding. Looking for help with: finding artists, organizing shows, hanging shows, organizing gallery sitters. Board brainstormed about how to bring more resources to the Gallery effort. Board agreed to offer \$2,000 stipend to organize shows for coming year. All will work to put the word out to art students, young adults in area with artistic credentials.

Old business

Steeple:

Bob Poole has still not heard back from any steeple jacks. Due to large cost of total restoration (est. \$60,000), Bec proposes removing upper steeple (belfry), restoring lower portion of tower and capping with hip roof. RFS would need approval from BUMC for proposed plan, but Bec does not anticipate any objections. Discussion of local architects/builders who might help out with plans. Bec emphasizes need to honor the integrity of the belfry. Keep intact, if possible. David seconds urgency of taking down as soon as possible, before it deteriorates to the point where it crumbles when moved. Small committee (Bec, Kathleen, Martha) will put together more detailed plan for August meeting, based on this general consensus.

Safe Sanctuary Plan:

After considerable discussion about multiple changes to BUMC policy, Bec proposed staying with RFS policy draft we agreed to last month, including change from “report to pastor” to “report to RFS board president.” Bec will send final policy and use form to Kathleen for posting on website. Board agreed to this resolution.

Climate Conference:

Elaine Hewes stepping in to take Alice Hildebrandt’s spot, as Alice had to withdraw due to family illness.

Ann reported some issue in dealing with George Stevens as venue, which are being resolved.

Great response from – and expanding field of – co-sponsors.

Publicity coming along. WERU Radio Active. Story blurbs on WERU. Ellsworth American, etc. Op-ed in BDN. Will be major article in Weekly Packet later this month. Long goal of forming local climate action teams.

Can still use more volunteers for the conference.

Callahan Mine: tabled

Foundation Grant

Gary will not be able to complete grant because he needs signature from District Superintendent, who is going on 3 month sabbatical. In addition, we’re running out of time for presenting aspirational goals, with repairs now being so far along.

Fund-raising: tabled

New business:

RFS mission statement – Lisa pointed out that this appears with different language in different publications and on website. Board agrees to use language included in June 2019 newsletter, with a couple of small changes: changing earth to Earth and using “arts,” instead of art and music. Kathleen will make these changes on website, then send to Bec for future fliers.

Brooksville Comprehensive Plan:

Gary received request from Jonathan Hall who is on the town’s Comprehensive Plan committee. Committee would like to receive from us a short description of what we’re doing. Ann agreed to send brochure and a brief description of current RFS activities to Jonathon – before he leaves town next week.

Board member terms:

Board agreed to review these at July meeting.

Date and time of next meeting: Monday, July 22, 9 a.m.

Kathleen will facilitate. Bec will take notes.

Volunteer hours for June:

Lisa – 4.5

Martha - 2

Kathleen - 5

Daksha – 20.25