

Reversing Falls Sanctuary  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – August 3, 2020, 4 p.m.

In attendance, board members: Daksha Baumann, Sheila Moir, Ralph Chapman, Camilla Cochrane, David Zachow Gary Vencill, Lisa Mazzarelli, Kathleen Caldwell; also, Bob Poole, steeple restoration contractor, and Dee Powell, steeple restoration volunteer grant consultant  
Facilitator: Camilla Cochrane; Recorder: Kathleen Caldwell  
Next meeting: Sept. 14, 4 p.m. Facilitator: Kathleen; Recorder: Lisa

**Building and Grounds Report / Steeple Project** (moved forward on agenda to accommodate Bob Poole and Dee Powell)

Bob Poole reported to the board about his meeting with Ric Quesada, a member of the Steeple Fund committee. Ric told Bob that the Steeple Fund would most likely not fund our proposal as currently written. (Unclear whether Ric was referring to latest or next-to-latest draft grant request.) He advised Bob to revise his estimate, to include more expensive materials (e.g. copper flashing vs. aluminum flashing), and to demonstrate that the repairs would last, without further maintenance, for at least 20 years. Bob and Dee have developed an augmented proposal which includes a substantially larger budget. David asked, if we put this project on hold for now, will steeple continue to deteriorate? Bob's response: Of course. Bob advised that, at least, we need to do something that will prevent further water infiltration and sinking of one corner of the steeple. Dee: Has not yet received any feedback on most recent proposal directly from the Steeple Fund Committee or from Ruth Demers, her contact person at the Steeple Fund. So, she is unclear if Ric was speaking for the entire Steeple Fund Committee, or if he was only sharing his individual opinion. Dee also uncertain whether the Fund still has money for 2020 grants. [Bob left the meeting prior to further Board discussion with Dee.]

Dee asked whether the \$11,000 from BUMC in South Brooksville is still set aside for this project. Board response was yes. There was a lengthy discussion about the immediate need for the "cricket" work to be done, to stop leakage, "best practices" per Steeple Fund standards, and what materials were acceptable to the Steeple Fund. Earlier, Bob had been trying to conserve on costs by proposing less expensive materials, which he deemed to be adequate. David asked what the Steeple Fund's policy was if costs exceeded the estimate; could the grant amount be increased to cover 50% of those additional costs? Dee doesn't know but will ask. Dee will continue communications with the Board through the RFS steeple sub-committee and Daksha. [Dee left the meeting.]

Further lengthy Board discussion about the steeple project. B&G committee recommended postponing the project in light of dramatically increased cost, uncertainty of Steeple Grant funding, lack of plan for how we are going to raise the now-substantial shortfall during COVID restrictions, and questions about whether RFS should be focusing on other priorities, in light of 2020 worldwide events. Four board members expressed agreement with the recommendation; four (including Gary, a non-voting member) did not express their opinions. At Kathleen's request, responsibilities of previously appointed ad-hoc Steeple sub-committee (comprised of Kathleen, Martha Jordan, Bec Poole and Bob Poole) were formally dissolved. Board did not formulate a clear alternative plan, including cost assessment, going forward.

The prior discussion led to the issue of the overall **RFS vision** and whether this needs to be revisited in light of Board turnover and our unusual times. Most recent visioning session took place several years ago. Board discussed the idea of convening a half-day envisioning session. Sheila will make preliminary inquiry with a local facilitator.

**July 6, 2020 meeting minutes – APPROVED.**

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Ralph offered to send to any board member who asks a more detailed accounting, in addition to his one-page monthly report.

Ralph requested the Board to act on the following:

Transfer of \$1000 grant income for CAN to the RFS-owned CAN account: **APPROVED**

Payment of \$1700 to each of two organizations: Bangor-based Racial Equity and Justice, and Black Lives Matter-Ellsworth, ME and payment of \$281.93 to Blue Hill Public Library for educational materials addressing white supremacy/racism. These were donations originally collected for a Weekly Packet ad in response to local acts of racism/bigotry but later re-purposed, with consent from donors, to support of local activist groups led by people of color. **APPROVED**

Payment of \$63 to Blue Hill Books for purchase of copies of *My Grandmother's Hands* – book being used for local discussion group. These are payments which were made to RFS for book purchases, with the intent that the money would be passed through to BHB, supplier of the copies. **APPROVED**

### **Program Report**

Gary reports that Program Team is meeting next week to continue their discussion about future programming during COVID and beyond. All Board members are welcome.

Gary read feedback from donors and other community members who received the communications about how the anti-racism donations were spent. All very positive. Only a few requests for reimbursements were received and all have been paid.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Fiscal Sponsorship Agreement with CAN**

Kathleen and Daksha reported on current status of the draft agreement with CAN. Tony Ferrara, authorizing official for CAN, has expressed issues with some of the fiscal reporting requirements, as drafted. Ralph and Kathleen will meet with Tony and try to devise some language around fiscal protocols that both the Board and CAN can agree to, while still complying with IRS requirements.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Fiscal Sponsorship Policy**

Board discussed volunteer attorney Brenda Buchanan's recommendation that RFS limit fiscal sponsorships to one sponsorship at a time. After considerable discussion, motion is made that RFS limit itself to one fiscal sponsorship at any given time, with Board retaining discretion to consider additional sponsorships, if and when the need arises. **APPROVED**

#### **Charitable donations**

As part of its overall mission, RFS has made modest charitable donations annually in the past. However, Board has not designated any such donations since 2018. To move this item forward, David suggested that each Board member bring to the September meeting at least one suggestion for a recipient organization. Kathleen will put this item near the top of the September meeting agenda.

Gary requested that others (in addition to Anne Ferrara and Gary) become involved in the Hancock/Washington Counties Poor People's Campaign Hub. They are just starting up and are in need of fiscal support.

#### **Charting a way forward**

[See paragraph 4 above, under Steeple Project discussion.]