

**FRIENDS OF THE GRANGE
BOARD OF MANAGERS MEETING
June 2, 2022**

The Board of Managers Meeting was called to order by President Kathy Parkinson at 6:32 P.M. in the drawing room of the Mansion.

PRESENT: Kathy Parkinson, Jeanine Rastatter, Fran McGarrity, Bill Penn, Bev Rorer, Chad Brooks, Scott Selkowitz, Joe Rastatter, Bill Parkinson and Rachelle Nocito.

EXCUSED: Sue Vernon, Jim Petrokubi, Cathy DiGirolamo, Bev Coster, Debbie Cipolla, Kathy Owsik

BY TELECONFERENCE: Betty Graham

The minutes of the May 4, 2022 meeting were read, and the motion to approve was made by Bev Rorer, and Rachelle Nocito seconded, all were in favor.

Treasurer's Report: Jim Petrokubi is not here tonight due to illness. We will update the Treasurer's report next month.

Kathy Parkinson said a huge tree fell down last week on Grove place, which blocked the driveway to the Grange. It took down "a forest, several trees. It was Kathy's first fallen tree. Chad Brooks noticed a tree on Myrtle near our property that looks like it is leaning, also and suggested that we should look into that now.

Farmhouse Tenants: There has been a little "to do" with the farmhouse tenants. Jane saw and called Kathy P. to report that the fencing was being delivered to the farmhouse. Bill Penn spoke to the tenants and said no permanent fencing can be put up. The tenant called Kathy P., who then reminded her that the lease says that nothing permanent can be installed. They did not ask permission to build a fence. Fran McGarrity reminded that "we can't even paint a room without getting

prior approval.” The post went into the ground before the Saturday of the anniversary party. The bamboo temporary fencing could be allowed; the posts were covered with dirt. Kathy P. kept reminding them that nothing permanent can be installed. Bill originally saw bags of cement when the 4 x 4’s were delivered. Fran McG. added that the Declaration of Covenants could be a fall back. Rachelle asked if we could give a dead line to remove the post. Bev said that we should have a township official come down. Fran McG. said we could go right to Mr. Berman, Township Manager, and bring up the issue. Chad B. added that no renter should be doing this, and that there is an inspection clause in the lease. Fran McG. added that there is some color in one of the farmhouse bedrooms.

CNN: They are doing a feature on Jefferson and want to go to Collenbrook to use the stone walls and backdrop. Bev Rorer walked them around. They are working on a proposal to be sent to both townships. They may want some outside and inside shots. They could use our library for a shot of Jefferson’s oval office. They are very respectful of historic sites. One of us could be here if they decide to come.

We may not get anything financially, but we would likely be mentioned. We could publicize this use of the Grange by the CNN crew. Bill adds that having them film here keeps in line with our historic mission.

Literary Salons at the Grange: Jeanine Rastatter proposed a summer program for the Grange, somewhat like Pandora’s Garden, where she would lead 3 one-hour Shared Reading events in the garden on Tuesday nights in July. She proposed charging \$20.00 and getting paid with half of the money to cover her fees. Fran McG. stated that Board members should not be making any money. Jeanine R. was unaware of that, and Kathy P. will follow up and do some research in the By-Laws.

Rachelle N. added that the Grange could pay Jeanine R. as a contractor. In a follow-up mail, Jeanine proposed that all proceeds will go to the Grange. Kathy P. moved to go ahead with the literary salon, Bev moved to approve and Bill Parkinson seconded, all were in favor.

CHAIR REPORTS

Attic Treasures: Jeanine R. said the Grange made \$35.00 today with the sale of the lobster trap, which brings the final total over \$1,000.00

Book Club: The book club is next week. It has been changed to Wednesday, June 8th, and the group is discussing "Eternal" by Lisa Scottoline. Jeanine reports that the book club has gotten several new members in the past few months and those new members are asked to buy a membership to the Grange.

Bees: Bev Rorer said that three hives are "going like Gangbusters." A woman on Myrtle is becoming more involved. They are waiting to see if the queens hatch. Eli will bring a new queen, if not. Katarina is trapping the black beetles in the Drone frames. They are checking the hives every week. Hazel is in charge. Hopefully, there will be lots of honey, come August.

Buildings, Gardens and Grounds: 10 pounds of mulch have been distributed around the property. Barry and his crews are moving it around. Barry hired 4 interns; 2 returned from last year, the one new intern has done a great job in cutting the grass. Barry will be gone soon, and Bill will be helping with the kids. The birdhouse in the courtyard was in major disarray. Lynne Penn mentioned the need for repair on Facebook, and a retired teacher who makes birdhouses came over and made a nice new one for the Grange.

Bill wants to replace all the lights in the Carriage House. Now is a good time because not much is going on. Last year one of the hinges came loose, and the light was hanging. Bill is getting some estimates for LED's. Lowe's has them for \$100.00 a piece. Bill P. would be able to install them. He thought an electrical supply house would be a better deal.

Hospitality: Jeanine R. read Debbie's Cipolla's update: Debbie C. mentioned the lovely 50th Anniversary party held at the Grange on May 21. 50 people attended and were very impressed with the Mansion and the gardens. Debbie C. hopes to get more bookings in the future.

Debbie has decided to clean out the Carriage House. Debbie C., Kathy P., Jeanine and Jane T. cleaned out two of the stalls, polishing the leather, etc. We found the lights which got us questioning if we should keep them. Bev added that there should not be any straw in the troughs. We are cleaning out the birthing stall. Why would you have a fireplace in a birthing stall? Bev R. thinks that is where the first house began. It looks like a bread-baking oven next to it. Years ago, the professor, John Cotter could not quite date the fireplace back that far. Fran McG.

thought if it could possibly have been the original log cabin. Then they used the foundation of that to build the Carriage House.

Rachelle added that when Terri Dougherty was here, she stated that her husband went to clean the tiles in their house, which could compromise them in an historical sense. Rachelle thinks we should be careful when cleaning.

Kathy P. added that there is a sinkhole near the driveway that is getting bigger.

The township was informed. As you are coming down from the parking lot, it is between the first and second post. Bill says we have to take care of this to figure out what is wrong in the Carriage House. Has the source of the backup been found? Kathy P. said, it has not. The township has to dig near the Porte Cochere and get another camera in. We cannot do the drywall in the bathroom until the problem gets fixed. Fran McG. asked if we can get the township to fix the walls.

Kathy P. is concerned about the drain behind the Carriage House. Scott Selkowitz made a temporary fix with some chicken wire there for now. The concrete support for the pipe, near the water wheel is now eroding.

Kathy P. mentioned that Chatham Park 3rd graders, 85 children were here on Wednesday, doing a scavenger hunt. All went well.

Programs: Kathy P. proposes that we should get a new magician for the August Magic Show/Ice Cream event. Kathy called Polly, who is available on the 4th and he does a 40-minute show for \$300.00 with comedy, music, juggling and a live rabbit can be petted by the children. Kathy P. proposed we should hire him. Chad B. moved to approve hiring Polly, and Bill Parkinson seconded. Kathy will book him.

Heritage Festival: Will be held this Sunday, June 5, 2022. Grange has a table. If anyone can help, it would be appreciated. It should be a great day with perfect weather. Kathy P. will bring tee shirts and magnets. Bill P. will bring the tables down and will have the trains set up. The Grange and train tables will be next to one another.

Gift Shop: Bev Coster is not here tonight, but the shop is lovely, newly painted and decorated.

Tours: Sue V. stated that there are very few guests this Spring, but those who have come are very impressed. A few people were waiting on Sunday. Joe R. noted the weather has not been great these past few months.

Trains: The train men are doing maintenance projects on the trains these past few months. The group is going to the train show at the Oaks Expo Center where they will have signage.

Flower Show: We have 2 tickets to the Philadelphia Flower Show. Is anyone interested in them? Fran McG. added that we paid more this year than prior so that we could get the 2 free tickets. Kathy P. will use them if no one is interested.

Township Representatives: Rachelle N. says we are doing a good job and moving forward. She also noted that Fran is here and she is doing a super job.

Rachelle would like us to recognize Scott

S., who is coming up with good ideas for the Seniors. Could we integrate with that group? Scott S. stated that The Senior Advisory council is finalizing a survey to assess needs and interests of those 65 and over in the township. On October 19th from 6-8 P.M., there will be meet and greet event for seniors. Food will be provided by Carlino's. This is a night of comradery and meeting those with the same interests. It will be at the Administration Building. They would like a representative from the Grange.

Scott S. is happy to spruce up the sign at the top of the walkway, fix the roof shingles on it and paint it. Kathy would also like to put a spotlight on it. Scott said he will prime and paint it.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was at 7:36 P.M., Bev R. moved, and Bill P., seconded. All were in favor.

Next Executive Meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 22, 2022.

Next Board of Manager's meeting will be held on Thursday, July 7, 2022.