

## **Burr Gardens Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes January 23, 2014**

### **Meeting Opened**

#### **Present**

Jennifer Downing, Laura Fasano, Jeanne Finlay, Michael Jehle

Meeting called to order: Chairman Laura Fasano called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

Moved approval of August and December minutes to the February meeting.

#### **Chairman's Report**

Laura Fasano reported that the temporary gate and locked chain placed at the opening of the Burr Homestead driveway have failed to keep the public from entering and parking on the grounds when attending or setting up an event held at the Homestead. Laura shared with the committee that her first priority for this year is getting this issue solved. Second priority is to get the parking area paved.

#### **Grounds Report**

Gate discussion: Frustration over the trial and error of the gate to block the driveway of the Homestead. The gates get pushed aside, and the chain that was put up before the Christmas Tree Festival was manually cut. All the new grass that was planted in fall has been destroyed and will need replanting. Mike Jehle explained that the Museum does not have the staff to monitor the gates or locked chain at the opening of the drive.

Any permanent posts and chain must be approved by HDC.

The committee discussed finding an approved metal post, dark in color with a swaged chain running between the posts to block cars from leaving the driveway and prevent them from parking on the Homestead grounds except in the parking area.

**Laura Fasano and Mike Jehle will speak with Ellen Gould** to get an idea of HDC's vision for the posts and chain, and then they will speak with **Joe Michelangelo**.

Discussion of possible ways to repave the drive and parking area would be to look into the cost of Chip and seal.

#### **Fund Raising**

**Ellen Gould and Laura Fasano** will present BGAC to the Fairfield Garden Club to consider a gift of \$2,500.00. **Laura Fasano** has approached Sasqua Garden Club for the same donation, but they are already committed for the year.

**Christmas Tree Festival:** BGAC will participate in the 2014 Festival by running the Quilt Raffle. **Jennifer Downing will Chair the raffle**. She has experience in this area. **Jeanne Finlay** will be in touch with Lisa Clair for specific historical dates and begin designing the Burr Homestead Cross Stich for the raffle.

## **Old Business**

**Laura Fasano asked Mike Jehle** to outline how the rental of the Burr Homestead works. Mike explained that it is the Town's mandate to keep the rental cost low so anyone can use it for functions and town clubs and events. That rental fee helps to pay some staff and cleaning after each event. The Museum manages this and receives a small fee. Any surplus at the end of the year goes to upkeep of the Homestead. Laura asked if it would be appropriate to require the committees and clubs who rent the Burr Homestead annually for their events contribute a portion of their proceeds back in to upkeep and renovation of the Burr Homestead and grounds.

**BGAC's Goal:** Create a separate fund for small improvements and maintenance to supplement the Town's work.

**There was no new business.**

Meeting was adjourned at 11:22 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Finlay