

**Burr Gardens Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
December 18, 2014**

Meeting Opened

Present

Tara Burke, Laura Fasano, Jeanne Finlay, Michael Jehle, Ellen Gould, Lisa Callahan

Meeting called to order: Chairman Laura Fasano called the meeting to order at 10:14am.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the April 17th meeting were approved 3-0. Minutes from the September 23rd meeting were approved 3-0.

Chairman's Report

Laura Fasano thanked the entire group for the hard work and support this past year. She is looking forward to keeping the momentum going, accomplishing more in 2015 and keeping the work fun and productive. Laura took the opportunity to thank each member of BGAC for their personal contributions of 2014: Jeanne Finlay for the cross stitch sampler for the Quilt Raffle, Jennifer Downing for chairing the quilt raffle, Ellen Gould for her graphic design help for all the posters and advertisements for the quilt raffle PR, Tara Burke for her PR and media expertise and website help regarding the quilt raffle, Lisa Callahan for sales and raffle tickets and support, and Mike Jehle for his guidance and for spearheading the committee.

Laura was happy to report that the quilt raffle raised \$3,500.00 which is great seed money for the next phase of the BGAC master plan.

Laura also reported that the Junior Women's Club has approved a \$2,500.00 donation in commemoration of their 50th anniversary because they use the Burr Homestead often. Laura will now approach the Jr. League for a donation with the Jr. Women's Club as precedent.

Grounds Report

Laura has heard great feedback on the newly planted boxwood hedge during the Christmas Tree Festival and is happy with the progress and comments so far. She would like to continue the boxwood hedge to further prohibit parking on the Homestead grounds.

Tea House Renovation - Phase 2

Laura and Jennifer Downing met with the Director of DPW, Joe Michelangelo, to discuss help with power washing, painting and landscape design. Joe is committed to assisting the BGAC on this project. Laura and Jen also met with Mark Finlay Architects to discuss the design of the teahouse brackets and structure to maintain a historically correct renovation. Mark Finlay Architects has offered to provide historic sketches and help with zoning and HDC.

Laura welcomed all of the committee to join in any future meetings with MF Architects. She will contact the committee with all meeting dates with MF Architects.

Lisa Callahan proposed gathering a real budget and then approaching Bigelow Tea for possible sponsorship.

BGAC will move forward with calling the structure the Tea House.

Ellen Gould made a point of recognizing the Fairfield Garden Club for restoring the front gate of the Homestead at its own expense. Also, as part of the Garden Club's 100th anniversary they have donated and planted hundreds of daffodil bulbs on the green to the right of the Homestead, along the inside of the front gate and along both sides of the driveway.

Website

The website is up and running. However, it is very hard to find. Still does not come up on an iPad. Tara Burke brought up the need to change the language of the opening page prior to the beautiful page designed by Ellen Gould. Ellen has tried to remedy this via meetings with Town Hall. Ellen and Tara will speak with Kathleen Griffin to see if she can help in changing the verbiage.

New Business

Homestead News reported by Mike Jehle:

The Town owns the Burr Homestead and the Museum manages it. The Town has mandated keeping the rental rates for the Homestead low so it remains accessible to most of the public. This however, limits the funds to upgrade the facility. Michael Jehle continues to work with John Michelangelo to add the Burr Homestead to the Town Capital Budget. Mike has spearheaded a Master Study of all the properties on the Town Green, and working with David Scott Parker Architects, has come up with a three phase Master Plan. He is requesting all the town committees for their support in letting the town know how important it is to get the Homestead improvements into the Capital Budget.

Lisa Callahan suggested approaching John Hancock Life Insurance to be a sponsor.

Possible ideas for 2015 discussion: Removing the brick wall directly in front of Homestead, replacing the flagpole, and parking options vs. barricades to block parking.

Discussed moving January meeting to 11:00am at the Museum in the classroom. Mike Jehle will check on the availability of the space.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:08 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Finlay