

Friends of Reversing Falls
Minutes of the 9/18/13 Meeting

Present: Carol Gregor, Ralph Chapman, Jackie Pike, Tony Ferrara, Gerry Bryan, Beverly Kelley, Tom Adamo, Pat Wheeler, Daksha Bauman, Karen Adamo, Anne Ferrara, Gail Vencill, Dick Gregor, Gary Vencill, Barbara Peppey, David Vandiver

Facilitator: Carol Gregor

Opening reading: Dick Gregor , “*Councils*” by Marge Piercy (see attached)

Minutes from August 21st meeting were approved and seconded (in absentia)

Ralph commented that formal meetings often require that the agenda with its list of items and the duration of time allotted to each one must be approved by the members present. We, as a semi-informal group, approved the agenda proposed by Carol.

Team reports were then invited. Thanks to Gail, we had a good set-up for each team to write their main points on the tablets affixed to the easels – a major help for the visual people among us.

Gary reported on the **Program Team** activities. (Report attached)

- He introduced Tony’s request for more volunteers to share the tasks associated with publicity for our programs.
- Spoke of a wish list formulated by the Program Team – it was suggested that these items could be published on our website.
- Finance team suggested that someone on the Program Team get an estimate on the cost of a movie projector for the Sanctuary.
- The continued need for a master calendar and calendar keeper was reiterated.

Gail reported on the **Building Team** activities.

- Among priorities, safety and health were noted. The building’s insurance as part of the New England Conference of the United Methodist Church was explained and the amounts of liability given.
- Health was also among the concerns of the Building Team. It was suggested that the insurance policy be checked for mold removal coverage.
- Preservation/maintenance tasks were noted: steeple, roof, gutters, floor, outside painting, heat, water, septic, kitchen, utility sink. A chart prepared by Dick Gregor listed tasks, with accompanying cost estimates (if using volunteer labor or using professional labor).
- Gail reported that there are copies of the Safe Workplace policy and the Safe Sanctuary policy at the back of the church.

Ralph also elaborated on the use of a liability waiver. He has examined the one used by Habitat for Humanity, Portland. Some information on this will be emailed to all members

for consideration. Tom will send to Ralph the waiver that the Greenhouse Project had drawn up by Chris Noble.

Tom reported on Finance/Development team.

- Brooklin Band did not ask for any remuneration, but the Program Team thought it would be appropriate to send \$100 as a sign of our deep appreciation for their concert. Finance team does not see this as necessary.
- Finance team is experiencing a shrinkage in available “workers.” Some initial members will be leaving for part of the winter months, and some others realize they are over-committed already and have no time to spend on organization right now. They would like to invite more people to join their efforts. Gail volunteered to serve on that team.
- The Finance team has decided to rotate leadership. The leader will set the meeting date and time, using Doodle. The leader will develop the agenda, be the note-taker, and report to the general meeting. Karen will lead the next meeting.
- Chris Noble will organize all names of RF participants into an Excel database.
- Would like to establish an annual budget, but needs input from Building and Program teams.
- Daksha will serve as a liaison person with the Building team and Tom will serve as the liaison person with the Program team.
- Possible sources of money are the Maine Community Foundation (next grant deadline will be in February), the Davis Foundation, and Kickstarter.
- Finance team wants a designated “asker” at all events. This should not be the person presenting.
- Karen reminded us that checks must be made out to BUMC, with Reversing Falls on the memo line. She is going to insert a clear reminder into each envelope.
- Daksha will create a large check, demonstrating what is required.

New Business

A discussion ensued regarding decision-making procedures within a given team, as well as for the large group. Ralph Chapman shared a handout with us called *On Conflict and Consensus* by C.T. Lawrence Butler and Amy Rothstein. It was decided by all present to adopt a consensus model for decision-making for several months. Decisions will be made by those persons present at a meeting.

Several people shared concerns about our communication process. Pat spoke about the Circle Process which she learned at the Peace Studies Program at UMO. Carol pointed out that as an organization grows, the need to balance formal and informal structures increases. Gary mentioned the value of a newsletter to keep our community up to date on what we are thinking, planning, doing, and dreaming. Gail shared that talk of structure discourages her – she is a doer and wants to get the job done. David reminded us that it is important to hold the tension associated with transitioning from small group dynamics to large group dynamics. This will lead us, he believes, to a more sustainable place. Tony and Barbara both spoke about the importance of creating good tools for intra-team communication.

It was announced that the Reverend Dr. Patricia MacHugh, district superintendent for the Northern Maine United Methodist Church, will meet with us on October 16th at 5:30 at Reversing Falls Sanctuary. She is happy to answer any questions anyone may have regarding the relationship of RF to the BUMC, and any questions regarding the use of this sacred building.

Our next general meeting will be held on Wednesday, 10/23 at 4pm. Ralph Chapman will be the facilitator.

Submitted by Anne Ferrara, secretary pro tem

Opening Reading: “Councils” by Marge Piercy (#585, *Singing the Living Tradition*, 1993)

*“We must sit down and reason together.
Perhaps we should sit in the dark.
In the dark we could utter our feelings.
In the dark we could propose and describe and suggest.
In the dark we could not see who speaks
and only the words would say what they say.
No one would speak more than twice.
No one would speak less than once.
Thus saying what we feel and what we want,
what we fear for ourselves and each other into the dark,
Perhaps we could begin to begin to listen.
The women must learn to dare to speak,
The men must learn to bother to listen.
The women must learn to say I think this is so.
The men must learn to stop dancing solos on the ceiling.
After each speaks, she or he will say a ritual phrase:
It is not I who speaks but the wind.
Wind blows through me.
Long after me, is the wind.”*

**Program Team Report -General Meeting
Wed., Sep. 18, 2013**

Past Events:

> 8/27 ~ Brooklin Band ~ Lovely evening, well prepared, 63 attended, \$700 raised

> 9/15 ~ Shetterly on "Civic Engagement ..." Aqaba & World Fellowship ... NH & Portraits
30 in attendance at an engaging, enlightening and fruitful conversation

> 9/17 ~ Hutchinson play read around ~ 27 readers, very helpful to the author

Coming Events:

> 9/20, 7 p.m. ~ Films: "A Place at the Table" & "Turning Clothes into Food"

> 9/22, 4 p.m. ~ Autumn Equinox Celebration [350.org *Drawing the Line*]

> 9/26, 7 p.m. ~ Jean Davison discusses her book, *Mother of Fire*

> 9/29, 4 p.m. ~ Nourishing/Flourishing

> 10/6, 4 p.m. ~ Women's Circle: "The Second Half of Life"

> 10/12, 3-5 p.m. ~ Labyrinth Walk at Alice's Field

> 10/13, 4 p.m. ~ Iona, Our Spiritual Experiences

> 10/18, 7 p.m. ~ Film, "Journey of the Universe"

> 10/19, 4 p.m. ~ Best Winter Growing Practices, a Greenhouse Project Workshop

> 10/20, 4 p.m. ~ Nourishing/Flourishing

> 10/27, 4 p.m. Dud Hendrick report on Jeju Island

> 11/17, 4 p.m. ~ Staged Reading of "The Trial of Anne Hutchinson"

To be Scheduled:

> Bill Gawley Band benefit

> Return of the Brooklin Band [Octoberfest]

On-going:

> Farm/Arts Exchange ~ This is progressing well. 12 artists and writers agree to participate,

9 or 10 confirmed - not looking for more artists. Making contact with the farms. Many of them are confirmed as well.

For Action:

- > Publicity ~ Tony is willing to work on publicity for events. He could use volunteers to help share that task. Publicity needs to be correlated with the website
- > Referral to building team or to a task force of artists and carpenters ~ the Farm/Arts Exchange will need a means to display art on the walls of the sanctuary.
- > Referral to Finance Team ~ RFS needs a DVD projector so we don't have to continue borrowing one
- > Continued need for a master calendar [perhaps digital and desk] and perhaps a master calendar keeper

Secretary pro tem

Gary