

# Minutes

## Forest Home Improvement Association

### Annual Meeting Via Zoom

October 27, 2021, 7pm

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In attendance: Caroline Arms, William Arms, Kris and Stella Merschrod, Jeff Holden, Herb Engman, Valerie Hans, Randy Little, Michael Bend, Bruce and Doug Brittain, Mildred Sanders, Jon Miller, Ruth Mahr, Emily Mahr, Charlie Trautman, Peter and Jennifer Loucks, Lars Washburn, Tom Campanella, Ari Lavine, Claudia Fuchs, Cindy Bowman

The meeting followed the agenda circulated ahead of the meeting at: [https://fhia.org/wp-content/uploads/Minutes/FHIA\\_2021\\_Annual\\_Meeting\\_Agenda\\_20211027.pdf](https://fhia.org/wp-content/uploads/Minutes/FHIA_2021_Annual_Meeting_Agenda_20211027.pdf)

1. Welcome and introductions.
2. President's report (Caroline Arms)

Caroline Arms went through selected highlights from the report distributed ahead of the meeting. See [https://fhia.org/wp-content/uploads/Minutes/FHIA\\_2020-21\\_PresidentAnnualReport\\_2021-10-27.pdf](https://fhia.org/wp-content/uploads/Minutes/FHIA_2020-21_PresidentAnnualReport_2021-10-27.pdf)

3. Treasurer's report (Valerie Hans)

Valerie Hans summarized her Treasurer's Report and pointed out that both income from dues and expenditures were lower than usual, with the major expense being to print the directory. For the report, see [https://fhia.org/wp-content/uploads/Minutes/FHIA\\_2020-2021\\_TreasurerAnnualReport.pdf](https://fhia.org/wp-content/uploads/Minutes/FHIA_2020-2021_TreasurerAnnualReport.pdf)

4. Report on preparation of printed directory (Jeff Holden, Vice-president)

Jeff Holden summarized how he had converted the previous directory document into a form that is easier to maintain when people move in and out of the community. Generating the formatted document for printing from the data structure proved more difficult than he had hoped. He noted that Cornell Printing Service provided excellent service at a reasonable price. For the report see: [https://fhia.org/wp-content/uploads/Minutes/FHIA\\_2020-21\\_DirectoryReport\\_2021-10-25.pdf](https://fhia.org/wp-content/uploads/Minutes/FHIA_2020-21_DirectoryReport_2021-10-25.pdf)

5. Election of Officers for 2021-2022 (Michael Bend acting for the Nominating Committee)

Michael Bend, chair of the nominating committee thanked outgoing officers Caroline Arms and Jeff Holden for their service. Michael announced that Connie Stirling-Engman and Valerie Hans were willing to stand for re-election to their current positions, secretary and treasurer respectively. He announced that Charlie Trautmann had agreed to serve as president, but was unable to assume these duties until the summer of 2022. However, Herb Engman was willing to serve as president until then. The

nominating committee did not have a candidate for vice president and so Michael asked the group for nominations for volunteers. After a brief discussion, Tom Campanella volunteered to serve as vice president, Connie Stirling-Engman as secretary and Valerie Hans as treasurer and was approved by the members.

#### 6. Opportunities for getting involved

Caroline Arms listed some activities for which volunteers will be needed:

- A. To help organize holiday activities – perhaps similar to last year. Michael Bend suggested the new officers should solicit interest from the community via the FHIA email list for ideas and volunteers.
- B. To recruit speakers for the FHIA Speakers Series. The Board can set up Zoom sessions.
- C. To act as street captain for Judd Falls Road.
- D. Charlie Trautmann mentioned that a group of volunteers from the community and students from Cornell are working together to spruce up Flat Rock Bridge by replacing its aging deck, handrails, and side restraints. The bridge was built in 1983 by engineering students at Cornell with funds donated by community members, and the bridge has become a key element of the local trail system. Since its completion, an estimated 1.2 million crossings have taken place. The group plans to renovate the bridge, using volunteers, as a community-built project in 2022 (date TBA). The project budget is \$50,000, of which \$35,000 has been raised through contributions from community members. He was asked to have the address to which to send contributions sent out to the FHIA email list.

Before the business meeting was adjourned, Jon Miller suggested that members should be allowed to raise issues. Bruce Brittain asked whether protocols for Halloween should be discussed, assuming that they should not yet be back to pre-pandemic practices. Caroline Arms indicated that she had found some useful guidelines and would circulate them to the FHIA email list.

Following the business meeting, Lars Washburn (112 Judd Falls Road) and his sister Katrina Mackey gave a demonstration of the high-end radio their grandparents had in the same house in the mid-1930s. The radio has recently been restored to functionality.

Respectfully submitted

Connie Stirling-Engman

#### NOTE:

Unfortunately, Connie Stirling-Engman was unable to attend the Zoom Annual Meeting because she was suddenly called out-of-town and then discovered she didn't have reliable internet. Herb Engman agreed to confirm with her that key points from the meeting have been covered.