

GRAIN PLACE FOUNDATION  
2016 ANNUAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
Thursday, July 7, 2016 - 7 p.m.  
Minutes

Members Present: Chuck Francis, Jay Vetter-Executive Director, Glenda Vetter, Tom Harding-Chair, Dave VanPelt-Treasurer, Chuck Hassebrook, David Vetter, Allison Vetter-Secretary

Guests Present: Bonnie Hawthorne, Jean Vetter, Charlie Ponec, Monica Herman

Meeting called to order by Board Chair, Tom Harding.

The meeting began with Roll Call and introductions. All Board Members were present.

The Conflict of interest statement was disseminated to the Board. Members were asked to complete the Conflict of Interest form and return it to the Executive Director. None of the members have a conflict of interest.

The Chair announced that David Vetter has been awarded the Rodale Organic Farmer Pioneer for 2016. The award ceremony will be held September 10, 2016 at the Rodale Institute in Pennsylvania. If you need tickets let Tom know.

Approval of minutes:

2015 Organizational Meeting – Motion by Chuck F., 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dave VP. – motion carried  
Sept. 5, 2015 Special Meeting – Motion by Chuck H., 2<sup>nd</sup> by Glenda – motion carried

Elections:

1) Board of Directors -- The Exec Director nominated the following to serve another 3 year term beginning in 2016 and ending at the time of the annual meeting to be held in 2019 – Chuck Francis, Thomas Harding,

Motion to accept the nominees was made by Jay; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Chuck H. - motion carried

2) Board Officers -- Jay proposed the following Officers serve through July 2017

President – Thomas Harding

Secretary – Allison Vetter

Treasurer – Dave VanPelt,

Motion to accept the proposal made by Chuck F.; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Glenda – motion carried

3) Exec. Director –Motion that Jay Vetter continue as Exec. Director made by Dave VP.; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Glenda – motion carried

Exec. Directors Annual Report (see attached) – Jay noted this year was devoted to the legal aspects of getting the foundation up and running. The crucial issue facing the farm and the foundation is finding the next farmer. Finding the right person is of the utmost importance if we want the farm to continue and to accomplish the mission of the foundation.

There was some discussion of the fiscal aspects of the Foundation including the requirement of an appraisal, as well as stock donations and transfers. Tom noted now that we are an official 501c3 we can accept donations and endowments.

Prioritization of Issues to be addressed:

1) Management:

Farm Manager -- Finding the right person to manage the farm is paramount to the Foundation being able to accomplish its goals. The Grain Place will hire and employ the new farm manager, with input from the Foundation. Compensation for the farm manager includes a house, utilities, renter's insurance, beef, pork, garden space. Other incentives are possible. There was some discussion about the Foundation being involved in the decision. Tom suggested we have the Grain Place write the job description then have the Foundation Board review it. It might also be good to find/hire someone to help with the search. There was some discussion about the possibility of using an internship program to continuously groom the next manager.

Insurance – The only funds coming into the Foundation this past year were memorials from Don's funeral (~\$3000), guesthouse rental fees, and money paid to David V. for his work with the University (see Profit/Loss Statement). The insurance for the property and general liability insurance for the property is through The Grain Place. This includes the insurance for the house and for anyone using the house (as it does for all houses on the property). We have decided not to purchase officers and directors insurance at this time.

Other Management Issues -- There was some discussion about how the Foundation wants to determine how to vote our shares of the Grain Place. A legal overview of the Foundation was suggested. Possible avenues for help include the Center for Sustainability Law out of Eugene, Oregon, Amy Swoboda with Legal Aid of Nebraska, and the Nonprofit Association of the Midlands.

Guest House – The Board discussed the care/upkeep of the guest house as well as ways it could eventually generate income.

Grain Place Governance -- In order to fortify this as a pioneering organic farm, we need to build the next generation at the farm, at Grain Place Foods, at the Foundation. The Board discussed the possible development of a mentoring program (including finding a farm manager, see above).

2) Development Opportunities –

Mission Statement: We like it! Needs to be in the forefront of everything we do.

Funding – We need a press release, Chuck H. will write.

Donations – Via website, Facebook page, events; Allison and Tom will create a donation pitch/card to be used at the annual farm tour this year to solicit "Friends of the Grain Place Foundation."

Need to establish categories of support.

Grants -- UNFI has grants that fit what we do.

Endowment Receptions

Scholarship Programs

Partnerships – Rodale, University of Nebraska, farm and value added internships,  
Outreach Activities – networking, young farmers,

3. Other –

Historical Recognition -- Tom brought up the idea of researching historical recognition/designation.

Budget – We need to begin developing a budget. We should also track of the value of in-kind donations as well as volunteer hours.

Assignments:

David V./Tom – work on job description for farm manager

Tom/Allison – create donation cards for Farm Tour

Chuck H. – write press release

Allison V. – review website

Tom, Chuck F., Allison, Jay – 8:30am, July 9, 2016 – brainstorming session on programming

Glenda and Charlie – draft list of guest house wants/needs

Motion to adjourn was made by Chuck F., 2<sup>nd</sup> Chuck H. - motion carried.