

ED Update

April, 2022

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Next board meeting Wednesday, April 20, 4:15 pm via zoom. **Materials online at matherhomestead.org/board**

Great news – Assistant ED hired!

* Lisa Kennedy, sister-in-law of John Sini
* She has lots of nonprofit experience and will be a pleasure to work with!

Posters … going once, going twice

* Tiffany (thank you!) had a great idea to put parks posters in our barn bathrooms which are a bit in need of decoration. We identified great posters of parks which came into the system during STM’s tenure as National Parks director. The posters with framing will cost around $100 each. If you’d like to sponsor a poster, we’d be most appreciative!! Just let Heather know.

BOARD

* Looking for recommendations of new members!
* We have 3 year terms. Those whose terms end this year include Stephen (1 term ends June but you may serve another!), Penny (1 term ends November, again you may serve another!), Richard & Jennifer (2 terms 3 year terms end sometime 2022 but you may continue because you are officers), Carolyn (2 terms end this year so you must take a break ☹).
* Please let me know if you do not plan to continue on the board next year – fingers crossed we have 100% retention, with exception of Carolyn who must roll off.

P&Z application is in – application online

* We are on the schedule for May 5
* Letters sent to contiguous neighbors
* Other neighbors have heard about the application and are expressing concerns about MH plans.
* Jennifer and Heather met with Dan Chandra (just north of MH) and John O’Brien (with red barn) to discuss.
* Emailing with other neighbors.
* WILL DISCUSS AT BOARD MEETING

Financials

* Revised 2021 financials available online
* March financials … I hope these will be ready for meeting …

Buildings and Grounds

* Land Trust has asked that Wayne no longer mow their grass and also remove equipment from land trust property. Also, they will likely get rid of the wildflower garden near the bees. They also recommend that we look at their land service who they think is cheaper than Wayne.
* New dishwasher installed
* Waste line replaced
* Outdoor lights now all on timers
* Fan has been installed in barn. Early to tell if it’s fixing heat problem.
* Hocon picked up propane tank – now need to remove fence and “beautify”
* Eagle Scout outdoor classroom project is done! Thanks Carol!
* Outdoor clean up in progress – working on getting rid of huge pile of logs which are now very visible. Will cost $5000 due to heavy machinery but I think we need to do it. Let me know ASAP if you disagree!
* WOULD LOVE TO PLANT ON NEW PROPERTY!!

Survey & Planning Grant – “condition assessment of the house and property”- update from APS

* Carl and Rose surveyed the main house exterior and interior, basement to attic.
* We did an initial walk of the entire property.
* We spent some time having an initial look at the drawings and photos in the archive room and took photos of those items of interest. We will start looking those over to determine usefulness and if there is more info we need.
* We have started looking over the info on the website and other initial research.
* Rose attended the Darien DAR tour of the house to get an idea of how info is currently presented, what the accessibility challenges are and any other issues which might need to be addressed.

Audience Assessment funded by SHARP grant

* Planned on sending to our email list 4/19 – waiting now with P&Z issues – we don’t want to ask our audience questions about “future programming”

Founders Fund Grant

* We are discussing applying for “Founders Fund” Grant through Garden Club of America. Proposal would be to bring property back to the days of Stephen and Bertha Mather.
* Letter due May 1! See attached draft online.

Stephen Mather Exhibit

* Working on creating an exhibit that is extremely moveable in the barn so we can continue with regular events.
* Sponsors – Chilton Investments ($5000), Carlson & Carlson Insurance ($2,500), Wofsey Rosen Kweskin Kuriansky, LLP ($1000), DR Bank ($500)
* Just need another $1,000 to reach goal – but we can do better!

Archiving

* Archiving project coming along with all upstairs objects tagged (thanks Hal & Connor)
* Meeting with a consultant who can help us create online finding aid this week

Recent MH events

* Lots of tours!
* March 2 – Scarlet Letter Book Club
* March 5 – Junior Board Apres Ski Event – they knocked it out of the park with 150 people and $14,000 in profits
* March 7 - Daughter’s of the American Revolution tour, lunch and meeting
* March/April Grow Along at Mather Series – learning to plant – 10 participants loved Junior Board member Ania Janis – everyone loved it
* March 10 – Colonial Bread Making with Leah ~16 people and LOTS of fun
* March 11 and April 2 – Candlelight Dinner at Mather Homestead ~10 people each enjoyed food by Fine & Dandy and tour of house
* March 29 – American Poetry
* March 30 – Jonathan Olmsted lecture about Frederick Law Olmsted

Upcoming MH events – please promote to friends!

* 4/28 Honey Tasting with the Queen Bee Marina
* 5/12 Men’s Night at the Mather featuring lecture, games & trivia – NEED HELP GETTING PEOPLE TO THIS ONE!
* 5/22 Music at Mather featuring Lissy Newman
* 5/26 Garden Tea
* 5/28 Music at Mather featuring Chrisitne Sweeney and Nick Depuy
* Also 5th grade tours are back!!!
* Early June – Plein Air Weeks
* 6/1 New Canaan Beautification group coming for coffee & lecture at MH
* 6/10 – 6/12 - Darien Alumni Art Show
* 6/5 Music at Mather featuring Acabella
* 6/12 – Music at Mather featuring ON the Trail
* 6/16 Rose & Roses
* 6/19 Music at Mather featuring Con Fuoco string quartet
* 6/23 Lecture featuring Alfred Gwynne Vanderbilt about Sagamore Camp and the other rustic camps of early 20th century
* 6/25 Mather Games
* Hoping for kid’s tea party

Recent rentals

* Bowdoin Acapella group concert 3/15 cancelled due to covid although they made donation!

Upcoming rentals

* Baby group using barn for six sessions on Tuesday at 10:30 in May/June $550
* 5/8 Kid birthday party $400
* 5/14 St. Lukes Fundraiser $2000
* 5/19 FCC Outreach Fundraiser $300
* 5/21 YMCA Campout $500?
* 6/1 New Canaan Beautification presentation and tour
* 6/10 – 6/12 Darien Alumni Art Show $2000
* 6/18 Baby viewing party $500
* 6/20 – 7/8 Pink Rhubarb workshops for kids $2625
* 7/16 College Graduation party $1000
* 11/5 Rehearsal dinner $1,500

Teen Board

* Kick off meeting April 3
* ~12 attendees from Darien High School, Greenwich Academy and other
* Led by Melissa Williams & Susan Barr

Senior Intern Program

* Four interns from Darien.
* Melanie Berman will help run the program.
* We have a long list of projects and will work with the kids to find the right projects for them.
* Document attached online.

Communications

* email list 1,330 up from 1,274 subscribers last ED report
* Instagram 1,115 followers up from 1,084 last ED report
* All Instagram posts then post to Facebook.

Development – we keep pushing a development update from the board meeting schedule due to other important topics. Soon …we will discuss

* Development Case for Giving/Elevator speech
* Development Plan
* Stewardship
* Endowment

That’s all folks …

Board meetings … mark your calendars …

* Wednesday, June 15, 4:15 pm
* July 20