

Beebe Estate Trustees Meeting

July Meeting Minutes

Beebe Estate

Attending: Jess, Bill, Dave, Sarah, Sean

1. Review of June Minutes— vote to approve and approved
2. Monthly Treasurer report— checks received; no major expenses; our cleaner will receive extra compensation for the extra cleanup following the wedding
3. Monthly maintenance discussion
Repair needs COA hallway and office; Dave is seeking 2 quotes
Jess reached out to DPW to inquire about checking outlets in CoA upstairs office
Dave will also look into fixing front wooden door and fixing broken window
Garden update— You Can Do It Gardening; Jessica Zander; Jess will reach out to her for more info and to schedule a meeting
4. Tenants and Event Rentals
Review of security deposit amounts, etc
Deposit is currently \$50; will be raised to \$100
Change email and lease agreement to ask for submittal of post dated check
We will require a 1 day liquor license for consuming alcohol
Bill is responding to the Children's Petting Zoo request, asking the company be bonded and licensed
Increased hours during the October art shows; Jess will email the tenants and make sure this works for them
Recap of Beer Garden event
Those of us who attended received very positive feedback including: community building, family friendly, highlights the grounds of the Beebe, well attended
Email noting concerns will be submitted with minutes
5. MOA w City updates — no new updates; awaiting meeting
6. Other business
NEMA membership – brown bag lunch meeting on “event rentals and historic preservation” — Sarah will join NEMA with an organization membership
Items for donation from Beebe Family will include 8 dining chairs, we are figuring out a landing spot for them; Bill letting the family know
We have a community member interested in joining the board. Bill will invite him to the next meeting in September

Meeting ended at 9:04 pm

Attachment as requested:

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Katy Kennedy**

Date: Tue, Jul 11, 2023 at 10:54 AM

Subject: 7-11-2023 Trustees Meeting - Public Comment

To: <info@beebeestate.com>

CC: *Mayor Brodeur <pbrodeur@cityofmelrose.org>

I just saw on the City of Melrose Calendar that the Beebe Trustees are meeting this evening. I had planned to contact you this week anyway. After reading tonight's agenda, I decided to send you an email now to serve as a Public Comment. Please attach it to your minutes and include it in the public record. Your last agenda item seems to be a question/discussion regarding the use of historic houses as venues for fundraising events and/or preservation sites.

Reading your complete website outlines the history of the house, how it serves as an elegant function space for art events, lectures, demonstrations, family gatherings and wedding receptions and provides home office space for the vital and important work of The Council on Aging, MAAV and Friends of The Fells. The fact that it is considered a Melrose Landmark and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places makes the stewardship of The Beebe Estate and how it is used important. Maybe a clear and updated policy should be articulated regarding rental agreements and use of the facilities.

"Beebe and Beer" posters and social media posts have been all over Melrose for weeks. I wonder who pushed for this event, how the decision was made, who authorized it and why another location wasn't secured for a beer garden ????? The lawn of a property listed on the National Register of Historic Places seems to be an inappropriate place for such an event. Posted photos of the event just reinforced my impression that it would basically appear to be a middle aged fraternity party.

Events in Melrose increasingly seem to be alcohol centric. Retail pop ups, the annual Summer Stroll, political campaign events all seem to advertise "SIP". Media coverage of the increase in mental health issues and increased alcohol use since the pandemic is everywhere. There are plenty of places and spaces to drink in Melrose. Please, reconsider the use of the Historic Beebe Estate as a beer garden.

Thank you for your consideration.

Katy Kennedy

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