

June 13th, 2009

Friends of Rockwood General Membership Meeting

President Chris Hutchison called the meeting to order at 11 am in the “Carriage House”.

He introduced the current officers:

Vice President, June Zappa

Treasurer, Doug Wenny

Secretary, June Filipkowski

The current board is:

John Cartier, Donna Fox, Betty Irwin, Jane Lewis, Paula Randazzo, Vinny Randazzo, Anne Reese, Nancy Schanes, Paul Stoffer, Bo Twelves, Betsy Wenny & Rick Zappa:

Doug Wenny gave a summary of the financial report, as of March, 2009 The Delaware Community Fund totaled \$191,557. We removed \$5,000 for the John Sweeney Memorial Scholarship at the University of Delaware.

The attendance was about 22 members, guests, and docents, including the granddaughter of Edith and Alex Sellers and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Wood of Bryn Mawr.

The Sweeney Scholarship check was delivered to the library at the University and will be matched by a \$10,000 check from the U of D. It will go to the graduate student who will manage our archives that are being moved to the U of D library.

The FOR and the docents are planning a **Murder Mystery Dinner** in the mansion for September 5 & 6th Labor Day weekend. Thanks especially to Loretta Spigel, Peggy Litchko, June Zappa and all the others who are involved in this planning. Announcements of exact times and cost will be sent out shortly. This is a fund raiser for the conservatory restoration.

Paul Stoffer has been writing grants along with Director Philip Nord to save the conservatory. We hope to hear shortly how those proposals are progressing.

A question was asked about the “**Carriage House**”. The barn which became the Visitor Center/Conference Center is now being leased to the Greenery Caterer. Our conservation area in the basement is not part of that lease.

We donated paintings done by Irene Ponsell to the Delaware Center for Contemporary Art for their fund raiser and two of the paintings were sold totaling \$260. We have two more in our possession.

Nancy Schanes, Membership Chairperson has done a great job of sending out and receiving our dues for this year and keeping the list up to date.

Paula Randazzo has our website running and our e-mail list up to date. We sent out our spring newsletter to over 80 people this way reducing our postage and printing to about 30 mailings.

www.friendsofrockwood.org

Donna Fox and Judy Filipkowski have sorted through the Rockwood slide collection and are putting together a slideshow. Judy showed an unfinished version to the group at the end of the meeting.

Chris introduced **Councilman John Cartier** who gave a presentation on “Brandywine Hundred’s Scenic and Historic Philadelphia Pike”. He has proposed having this designated a historic byway. It was a colonial road and possibly a Native American trail for many centuries.

Of particular note for the Rockwood group is the William Sellers Ironworks that is now the site of Fox Point and the DuPont Chemical plant. Sellers iron went into the making of the Brooklyn Bridge and the Eiffel Tower. He also invented the International Standard for screw sizes. Also the Penny House on the Pike has a hard to see house behind it, the Penny-Bradford Mansion where Robert Shaw had his studio in the carriage house, which has burned down.

Meeting was adjourned to the lobby for ice cream and cake.

Judy Filipkowski
Secretary