

The Friends of the Kennedy Martin Stelle Farmstead Announce 2020 Officers and Board of Trustees

Basking Ridge, NJ, October 7, 2020: The Friends of the Kennedy Martin Stelle Farmstead, whose mission is to preserve the historic farmstead and run Farmstead Arts Center on the grounds, announced the election of a new board president, officers and members of the Board of Trustees following the Annual Members meeting held on September 26, 2020.

The board unanimously elected Leslie Workman to serve as President. Workman joined as a trustee in the spring of 2019 and has been a long-time supporter and patron of Farmstead Arts Center. She takes over from Ann Osterdale-Rosenblum who served as president since 2010, when Farmstead Arts first opened to the public.

Richard Huckins, a trustee since the summer of 2020, was elected to become First Vice President.

"The Friends are fortunate to have wonderful leaders in our community step up to continue the preservation of the historic Farmstead and bring the joy of arts to our community during this difficult and challenging time," said outgoing President, Ann Rosenblum.

Incoming President, Leslie Workman, said, "We are grateful for the individuals whose vision made Farmstead Arts what it is today and especially for Ann Rosenblum who has done an outstanding job for the last decade. I am humbled and honored to have been chosen to be the next leader of the Kennedy Martin Stelle Farmstead organization."

The Farmstead Board of Trustees Officers for 2020 are:

- Leslie Workman, President
- Richard Huckins, First Vice President
- Ann Rosenblum, Second Vice President
- Irene Grabowski, Corporate Secretary
- Brenda Rediess-Hoosein, Treasurer

The term for officers are two years. Additional trustees who will continue serve include: Maureen Fuchs, Nancy Gleason, Carolyn Kelly, Michael Kelly and Shona Veasey. The Board also appointed Farmstead neighbor, Tom Whitehouse, to be a community liaison for the Farmstead and an advisory member of the Board.

Meet the New Officers:

Leslie Workman

Leslie began her career in Banking and Finance, working for some of the world's leading financial institutions before choosing to become full-time CEO of their family. For the past 20+ years she has served her community in various volunteer capacities. In Bernards, Leslie has served on township boards including the Library, Open Space Advisory and Parks, Pathways and Recreation. She is also a recognized leader in local political organizations, having served as Chairwoman in Bernards and on Executive Boards at the local and County level. She completed Leadership Somerset, a County sponsored leadership program, where she honed her skills to better serve the

non-profit community. Since the spring of 2019 , the Farmstead has greatly benefited from her organizational, management and financial skills.

Richard Huckins

Richard has been a resident of Bernards Township for 22 years. For the past 25 years he has worked in the pharmaceutical business developing communication strategies and tactics for patients with life-threatening disease. Earlier in his career he spent 12 years as an environmental consultant. He has a long record of community service to Bernards Township as a member and Chair of the Open Space Committee (2005-2008), as a Planning Board member (2009-2013), and Executive Committee Recording Secretary for a local political party (2018-present). Richard was a strong advocate for acquiring the Farmstead property, both as Chair of the Open Space Committee (2005-08) and as a Planning Board Member in 2009. The Board appointed Richard as a Trustee in Summer 2020. In addition to being the newly appointed Vice President of the Board, Richard is the Chair of the Construction and Maintenance Committee, a member of the Fundraising Committee and the Farmstead's ADA coordinator.

Meet the Newest Trustee

Shona Veasey

Shona Veasey was born and educated in Central London, England where she earned her Master's Degree from London University. An avid traveler, she has travelled all over the world from Vietnam to Peru. Shona moved to New York where she worked in finance on Wall Street. After living in Seattle and Chicago, Shona and her family, including her 3 children, settled in Basking Ridge, where she has lived for the past 16 years. Most recently, she has served as the Fundraising Director for March of Dimes. Her volunteer activities in Basking Ridge included chairing the international Marco Polo group for 10 years. The Board appointed Shona as a Trustee in Summer 2020. She serves as co-chair of the Fundraising Committee.

About Farmstead Arts Center

Located at **450 King George Road in Basking Ridge NJ** on the grounds of the historic Kennedy Martin Stelle Farmstead, **Farmstead Arts** is a center for fine, performing and practical arts offering year-round programming of concerts, lectures, theater, art exhibitions and special events. Artists in residence offer all varieties of art classes and workshops. More information: www.farmsteadartscenter.org.

Trustees, staff, volunteers and members manage Farmstead Arts activities as well as help preserve the historic property that is listed on the National & NJ Registers of Historic Places. *The Friends of the Kennedy Martin Stelle Farmstead (dba as Farmstead Arts) is a not for profit 501(c)(3) organization.*