

MEMO

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Christine Doty, President & CEO
DATE: March 13, 2019
SUBJ: Report

1/ City of Hartford License Agreement

Request for renewal of the current License Agreement was hand-delivered to the City of Hartford on February 26, which was prior to the March 1, 2019 deadline for giving notice of intent to renew on the same terms for another 5-year term. The current agreement expires, if not renewed, on May 30, 2019.

2/ Projects

- **Visitor Center Project—**

Now that SHPO is behind us, we are still working our way through another bureaucratic slow-down with DEEP for execution of the actual bond agreement. I signed a new contract, with the new DEEP Commissioner's name on the contract, on February 28 and am awaiting DEEP and AG counter signatures. At the same time, our lawyers and architects are proceeding with the drafting of an RFP for the project.

- **Permanent Stage**

West Hartford Zoning and Wetlands Commissions approved our plans for a permanent stage at a public hearing on Monday evening, March 4.

- **Wetlands Boardwalk in Western Loop**

Anne Penniman and Associates presented a design schematic for this proposed project at a Future Planning Committee meeting yesterday. Several questions were raised (materials, maintenance requirements, cost estimates) that Anne will be addressing.

- **Fern Street entrance**

There are now two donors interested in improving this entryway, and TO Design has developed some design ideas for the one donor who has indicated the larger gift to consider.

3/ Events

- The first lecture of the Garden Lecture Series went very well, with almost 90 in attendance and a very well-received speaker, Victoria Johnson, author of *American Eden*.
- Next lecture will be on March 20 with Jana Milbocker about garden tourism.
- Bulb show from March 15 to 22, with sale on March 23. Board volunteers are needed.
- Also, pop-up cocktail party for donors tomorrow evening in greenhouse from 5 to 6:30 pm. All board members are welcome to help entertain our donors.