



Location: Zoom

Date: Thursday, Dec. 12, 2024

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Brussels Agricultural Society General Meeting

In Attendance

Reg Vinnicombe, Glenda Morrison, Rosie Kellington, Monique Baan, Don Baan, Justin Morrison, Mary Douma, Crystal McCallum, Bridget McCallum, Marie McCutcheon

Regrets: Dorothy Cummings, Sandra Machan, Maggie Speer, Mary Ann Thompson, Joan Bernard, Crystal Blake

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was reviewed. The motion to approve the agenda as amended was made by M. Baan, seconded by M. Douma, motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

The previous meeting minutes (Nov. 6th, 2024) were reviewed. The motion to approve the previous minutes made by L. Garland, seconded by G. Morrison, motion carried.

President's Report

R. Vinnicombe reported that he wants to try and take a few things off the AGM agenda and suggested that we have a short general meeting immediately following the AGM.

Homecraft Report

L. Garland presented the idea of a Seniors Section. We need a Lead and helpers. Need to pick an age group or groups eg. aged 65 and over, # of items, etc. L. Garland reported that there are sponsors willing to sponsor this new section and we could have some Specials. M. Baan suggested this section start with a smaller number of entries to get a feel for what the exhibitors are interested in. We don't want Senior entries to take away from other sections eg. quilts

M. McCutcheon, L. Garland and R. Kellington agreed to meet to come up with the categories and Specials. Could run Senior Fall Fair Craft Days at possibly the Haven, the Library and at Huronlea and Highland Apartments. At the Library, we could combine the Junior and Senior Fall Fair Craft Days! **Update:** Garland, McCutcheon and Kellington have met, created the Senior Section exhibits and guidelines and have sent to Z. Onn to be included in the FF book. **(Still looking for a Senior Section Lead and volunteer assistants.)**

Treasurer's Report

G. Morrison reported that there were very few changes in financials since our last meeting.

-We hosted a euchre tournament at the Grand Opening of BMGCC which so far has netted us an income of \$592.50. We are still waiting on the money from the bar from Huron East. (G. Morrison and J. Morrison will contact HE and request this info.)

-We are waiting on the bill for the use of the kitchen?, the arena? and the money from the bar for Ladies Night from Huron East. (G. Morrison and J. Morrison will contact HE and request this info.)

-She reported that the 2 GIC's are in the works . She will need to get cheques signed in order to complete this. She is purchasing a \$20,000 GIC from the money in TD for 9 months and a \$15,000 GIC on December 18th from the Manulife account. This will leave us approximately \$10,000 in various accounts. She would like to move 8,000 of it into the Manulife account.

-She also reported that there are a few bills here that she needs to get cheques signed for:

The Citizen – \$291.63, Microage Basics –\$ 96.04, G. Morrison – \$84.75 - She paid the OAAS Fees on her credit card as the mail wouldn't get a cheque there in time.

-She has a bit of money to deposit from fair: 15 memberships, 132 sponsorship 50 donations

-R. Vinnicombe reported that the Citizen was working on their Holiday Greetings edition set to run on Dec 20th, the last paper of the year. He attached the 8th page greeting that ran for the Brussels Ag Society last year. If we go with the same size, the cost is \$116.06 + hst. G. Morrison to send payment.

-The motion to approve the Treasurer's Report made by M. McCutcheon, seconded by M. Baan, motion carried.

Ambassadors' and Ambassador Sub-committee Reports

-Junior Ambassador, B. McCallum, reported that she went to Wingham and Brussels Parades and she had favourites about each parade. Picture of all 3 ambassadors was in the Citizen.

Entertainment and Fundraising Sub-committee Reports

-Ladies Night Sub-committee Report

-No report except waiting on HE for the final bill and our share of bar money.

-Euchre Tournament Sub-committee Report

-R. Kellington reported that the tournament was very successful and enjoyed by all. Made almost \$600 profit. Still waiting on HE for our share of bar money. Participants asked if we could run another tournament during the day in the winter or spring. Maybe one for seniors at the Optimist Hall, Highland apartments or other Brussels locations. Discuss later.

-Line Dancing Lessons and Barn Dance Sub-committee Report

-S. Loveridge and R. Kellington are co-leading this FUNdraiser. A handout was made available of a draft proposal and budget. They asked the members if there was any interest in pursuing these events. Permission to present a more detailed plan and budget at the next GM was given. (Handouts of proposal and budget will be available at GM Jan. 29th) If members approve, a motion will have to be made to accept the budget and the Committee will move ahead with the plans.

Fall Fair Book Sub-committee Report

-Z. Onn is working on the initial draft of the FF book. Just the basic Section text with exhibits and prize lists with no pictures. R. Kellington and M. Baan have volunteered to-proofread it before it goes to print. Again the goal is to simplify the FF book with less colour, detail and pages to decrease printing costs per book yet still ordering 500 as in the past...ran out of hard copies last year a bit early.. Nothing gets posted online until it goes to print to prevent errors/problems that occurred last year with misinformation. Goal to get Junior Section to schools asap so teachers can incorporate exhibits into their programming. Hopefully more FF participants will begin to look online instead of needing a hard copy FF book in the future!

New Website Design Sub-committee Report

-J. Morrison reported that the new website design is almost finished. There will be a section with tabs for memberships for people wanting to join the Ag. Society. There will be section tabs to the put minutes. He reported that the only area of the new website that he does not have any information on is the Ambassador program and process. C. Blake will contact Maggie and follow up on the missing pieces eg. , age restrictions, requirements, expectations on competition night at the Legion, etc. All program requirements need to be easily accessible for parents and potential participants with clear instructions on how to enter, etc,. (R. Kellington and M. Baan? volunteered to help proofread the new website to prevent any false or outdated info. getting out to the public.)

-This new website is very exciting for the Ag. Society and we thank J. Morrison for taking the lead and tackling this big task on his own.

Old Business

- Brussels Santa Claus Parade Float -The float looked amazing due to good planning and a group effort by J. Fischer, K. Aitcheson and her family, D. Cummings, R. Vinnicombe and J. Cardiff. The use of Aitcheson's truck and Cardiff's wagon was much appreciated again this year. (Brussels Agromart should either be given a call, sent an email or a card dropped off thanking them for the use of their shed for decorating...J. Fischer, K. Aitcheson or R. Kellington?). The theme of our next Fair, Overalls and Aprons, and the date of the fair was put on our big poster by D.Cummings/ Barmy Tech and it looked great for advertising.
- D. Cummings put a new light in the Ag. shed which will be handy.

- Review of Draft Constitution - We were able to successfully complete a review of the rest of the draft Constitution and it is ready for the AGM, Jan. 29th.
-R. Vinnicombe noted that the Constitution has to be approved at our AGM so we meet the Ontario Not-for-Profit Act. The Constitution is a living document and updates can be made if the members feel additional changes are warranted after the AGM.
- AGM - **M. Douma will ask if the Melville Presbyterian Church is available to rent on Wed. Jan. 29th, 2025 with inclement weather date of Jan. 30th. R. Kellington has confirmed with guest speakers from the Guardian Program for a 15 min. presentation. We need to supply a projector (Z. Onn/the Barn) and screen (R. Kellington). J. Morrison will present his work on our new and improved website design.**
- **R. Vinnicombe reminded members to think about nominations for the Director position so we are more prepared at the AGM.**

Correspondence And Announcements

- Training Sessions on the Process for Completing the 2024 Annual Return and Grant Application, Nov. 28th and Jan. 13th, 7pm-8pm. (Ask Rosie for more info.)
- AGM - Wednesday, Jan. 29th, Snow date-Thursday, Jan. 30th. 6-6:30 pm social time, 6:30pm potluck dinner with AGM to follow around 7pm -guest speakers-Agriculture Wellness Ontario Programs-Overview of the Guardian Network for Suicide Prevention in Agriculture Workshop, In the Know Mental Health Workshop. An abbreviated General Meeting will follow the AGM.
- OAAS Convention, Feb. 20-22, 2025. Sheraton Parkway Hotel, Richmond Hill, ON, 2 rooms booked, M. Speer and E. Bieman, C. Blake to attend (**Update: Crystal unable to attend, Reg to attend in her place.**)
- Brussels Fall Fair, Sept. 16-17th, 2025, Overalls and Aprons.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by C. Blake.

Next general meeting will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 29th, 2025 following the AGM which starts at 7:00 pm at Brussels Melville Presbyterian Church

Minutes submitted by: Rosie Kellington

Minutes approved by: Reg Vinnicombe

Action items are indicated in red.

Suggested Themes for 2026 to Vote On

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| 1. Family Fun Day | 8. Country Roots and Cowboy Boots |
| 2. Grow it, Sew It, Show It | 9. Bumper Crop of Fun |
| 3. Go, See & Be Seen | 10. Eggstra Special Fair |
| 4. Home For The Harvest | 11. County Bounty or Huron County Bounty |
| 5. Homespun Hostess | 12. Put Pork on Your Fork |
| 6. Preserving the Harvest | 13. Ham & Eggs |
| 7. Autumn Treasures | 14. _____ |
| | 15. _____ |