



**Location:** Brussels Library

**Date:** Wednesday, March 6, 2024

**Time:** 7:00 p.m.

## Brussels Agricultural Society General Meeting

### In Attendance

Justin Morrison, Bessie Johnston, Jill Wagemans, Lori Vader, Linda Garland, Monique Baan, Pam McLellan, Gail Jaycock, Dorothy Cummings, Rosie Kellington, Reg Vinnicombe, Katie Aitchison, Peggy Aitchison, Glenda Morrison, Mary Douma, Jenna Baker, Jackie Garniss, Sean Mitchell, Joan Bernard, MaryAnn Thompson

Guest: Dianne Diehl

Regrets: Zoelynn Onn, Maggie Speer, Marie McCutcheon, Matt Cardiff

R. Vinnicombe presented D. Diehl with her prize for placing 3rd in the honey class at the OAAS competition held during the recent conference.

### Approval of Agenda

The agenda was reviewed. The motion to approve the agenda (L. Garland) was seconded (D. Cummings) and passed.

### Approval of Minutes

The previous meeting minutes were reviewed. The motion to approve the previous minutes from the Feb. 7, 2024 meeting (M. Baan) was seconded (L. Vader) and passed.

### President's Report

No report.

### Homecraft President's Report

L. Garland reported that plans are well underway for the Family Fun Fair which is being held at the Brussels Legion on Sunday May 5 from about 1-4pm. The buckets of junk have been prepared and will be available for pick-up at Murray's Barber Shop. Posters have been printed and will be put up around town. There are clear rules. L. Garland recommended that sections put up a display and any general information about the fair could also be displayed. Members are asked to encourage people to come out and participate. M. Baan recommended that a small handout could be distributed by the Brussels librarian as an invite and L. Garland agreed to look after that. L. Vader indicated that she has a possible contact to take over the baking section.

## Treasurer's Report

-G. Morrison reviewed the financial reports. She has started to break down the donations as requested. She is asking for members to please pay their annual fee if they have not already done so. The motion to approve the financial reports (L. Garland) was seconded (M. Thompson) and passed.

## Ambassadors' and Ambassador Sub-committee Reports

On behalf of M. Speer, R. Vinnicombe reported that there has been a committee meeting and the minutes will be sent to R. Kellington. There is a tentative date for the 2024 Ambassador competition. There has already been an inquiry about the little Ambassador age group.

R. Kellington read a report prepared by L. Higgins which updated the members on her recent and future participation in events in her role as Ambassador.

The information from the Ambassador's FB page needs to be shared on the Brussels Fall Fair and Agricultural Society FB page.

## Ladies Night Sub-committee Report

J. Fisher reported that the committee met a few weeks ago and are meeting again to confirm a date for this year's Ladies Night. She noted that the arena fees have gone up to around \$1500 plus kitchen plus bar. However, the entertainment idea for this year will be relatively inexpensive. This year's idea is a lip syncing contest with local groups being asked to perform. Money will be needed for prizes. The group is hoping to get Cardiffs to cater the dinner if they are available. The committee has decided that all proceeds will go directly back to the Ag. Society. K. Aitcheson noted that our group needs to be transparent about how much the fair costs.

## Old Business

- AssistExpo - R. Vinnicombe found out that we need to check a few things in AssistExpo to resolve our issues.
- Highlights of 2024 OAAS Convention: February 22-24, 2024 at the Sheraton Parkway Hotel, Toronto North, Richmond Hill (L. Higgins, L. Vader, R. Vinnicombe attended)
  - L. Vader printed off ideas she gathered from the conference and is welcome to share. She shared an inspiring quote. She talked about the importance of being specific with the amount of time that tasks need for volunteers so they can be matched suitably according to the amount of time they have to give.
  - R. Vinnicombe talked about some of the seminars he attended and what he learned. He provided dates and deadlines regarding the legislation for updating our constitution. He noted that once a draft is completed we will have a meeting. He shared that livestock traceability stays with the producers and owners. He reported that the Building Committee Leaders program is having a 2 day workshop with the closest location being in London. The motion to send 2 participants and pay their way (L. Garland) was seconded (M. Baan) and passed.

- 2024 Fair
  - Updates for the Junior section of the fair book have been sent to Northwoods School.
  - The pros and cons of having the BBQ on the same day as the fair were discussed. To be discussed further at the next meeting.
  - The members thought the Escape Room was a success and should get it back again this year.
  - There was a consensus that last year's Petting Zoo was not worth the cost. **R. Vinnicombe will contact Seaforth Fall Fair to get some ideas regarding their petting zoo.**
- Huron East - new rental rates - no update from the municipality to date. J. Cardiff and R. Vinnicombe have a meeting coming up and they are anticipating that things will change with new municipal staff. Any changes will have to be passed by council and the Ag Society. A new agreement will be put in writing for the benefit of both parties.

## New Business

- Request for further info. from the Lion's resulting from their meeting on Feb 19th
  - R. Vinnicombe has sent a letter to the Lions to answer their questions and concerns regarding our fundraising activities. The Lions executive will meet on March 26th and will discuss whether or not to provide financial support.
- Agriculture Wellness Ontario Conference
  - M. Baan made a presentation regarding her recent training with the Farmer Wellness Initiative. She has brochures available with the phone numbers for free and unlimited counselling. If anyone is interested in taking the training or knows someone who might need the services, they can reach out to her.

## Correspondence and Announcements

- District 8 Ambassador Seminar, March 30, 2024, Rostock Hall, 4817 Line 46 Rostock, Ontario.
- Family Fun Fair, Sunday May 5, 2024 at the Brussels Legion starting at 1pm.
- The Clinton Raceway Fundraiser, Sunday August 25th, 2024. They will provide us with further details closer to the date. There is a Media & Season Partners social event on April 18th (7 - 9pm at the Huron Fish & Game).
- Brussels Fall Fair, Theme is Pork & Beans, September 17 - 18, 2024

## Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by L. Vader. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, April 3, 7:00 pm, Brussels Library

Minutes submitted by: Rosie Kellington

Minutes approved by: Reg Vinnicombe