



Location: Brussels Library

Date: Wednesday, Nov. 1st, 2023

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Brussels Agricultural Society General Meeting

In Attendance

Marie McCutcheon, Crystal Blake, Loretta Higgins, Dorothy Cummings, Glenda Morrison, Peggy Aitchison, Kate Aitchison, Ben Lootsma, Mary Douma, Jenna Fischer, Pam McLellan, Mary Ann Thompson, Brenda Perrie, Justin Morrison, Jeff Cardiff, Rosie Kellington, Reg Vinnicombe, Margaret Speer, Sandra Machan, Monique Baan, Joan Bernard, Jackie Graniss, Terri Gray, Gail Jaycock, Rhonda McArter, Bonnie Lindsay

Regrets: Murray Hoover, Lori Vader

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was reviewed. The motion to approve the agenda (C. Blake) was seconded (M. Douma) and passed.

Approval of Minutes

The previous meeting minutes were reviewed. The motion to approve the previous minutes from the Oct. 4th, 2023 meeting (D. Cummings) was seconded (M. McCutcheon) and passed.

President's Report

R. Vinnicombe had nothing new to report. Action items are indicated in red throughout this report.

Homecraft President's Report

No report.

Treasurer's Report

-G. Morrison added the shed to the assets.

-Motion to pay the \$500 penalty for not filing charity tax returns for 2019, 2020, 2021 (D. Cummings) was seconded (M. Thompson) and passed.

-J. Lowe is trying to get verification clarification about the OMAFRA yearly grant that we have not received for last year yet.

-The Trillium Grant has been applied for.

-Need to collect cash from the cake decorating contest sales from C. McCallum.

-Etransfers can now be sent to email brusselsagsocietyfinance@gmail.com.

-AssistExpo bill of \$621.50 has been paid which is a yearly cost.

-Motion to purchase a Remembrance Day wreath for \$85 (S. Machan) was seconded (Maggie Speer) and passed.

- G. Morrisson and R. Vinnicombe clarified profits and expenses occurred from the fair.
- Discussion that the total money brought in for the food booth was low. Might be a book-keeping issue.

Ambassadors' and Ambassador Sub-committee Reports

L. Higgins attended the District 8 OAAS Annual General Meeting in Milverton on Tuesday Oct. 24 and gave a report of the activities she participated in during the evening. M. Speer reported that Ambassadors went to North Woods with J. Lowe and handed out prizes.

Ladies Night Sub-committee Report

J. Fischer reported that Ladies Night had a few hiccups, but although it was a lot of work it was very profitable. There was a discussion regarding how much of the approximately \$13,000 net profits should be donated to North Woods School. The motion to approve a donation of \$5000 to North Woods Elementary School Playground Campaign (M. Baan) was seconded (D. Cummings) and passed.

J. Cardiff suggested Masked Singer as a possible entertainment idea for next year.

Old Business

● AssistExpo

-R. Vinnicombe reported J. Lowe entered everything he had in terms of prizes.

● District 8 Fall Meeting Oct 24th, Milverton

-R. Vinnicombe, M. Thompson, L. Higgins and R. Kellington attended the meeting.

-R. Vinnicombe reported that ONCA has been asking OMAFRA for 2 years for assistance to ensure that our Societies' Constitution and By-laws documents would be ONCA-compliant by October 2024. OMAFRA has been assuring us all along that they have been working on providing an ONCA-compliant Constitution and By-laws template. Very recently, they indicated that their legal team did not have time to do this. OAAS finally had to take matters into their own hands and work to create a template roughly based on the original OMAFRA template. They will share this template with us as soon as they are available and we may need to hold a Special Meeting in September/October 2024 to approve the documents and get them updated and submitted to OMAFRA before the October 2024 deadline.

-M. Thompson announced the winners from some of our local entries at the District 8 competition:

Dianne Diehl-1st place for honey-moving onto Provincial competition in Toronto

Bev Craddock-2nd place for maple syrup

Mary Vair-3rd place for hand quilted quilt

● 2023 Wrap up and Ideas for 2024 Fall Fair

-R. Vinnicombe asked for additional feedback from 2023 and suggestions for improvements. Suggestions included numbering the pages of the Fair booklet, subcommittees to look after and coordinate the Fair booklet and the entertainment. A chart has been sent out by R. Kellington to collect suggestions in an organized fashion and members are encouraged to fill out this chart with additional comments/concerns and improvements.

● Basket Raffle

-Terri Gray informed the members that the Ellisons would like to do the baskets again. She recommended that we go back to the method of giving ticket buyers the choice of which baskets they would like to win. The motion to approve the Ellisons to make up 5 gift baskets for a maximum of \$1000 for the 2024 Fall Fair Basket Raffle (T. Gray) was seconded (J. Cardiff) and passed.

● Christmas Parade Float

-J. Cardiff reported that we can use the Agromart shed on Nov. 29th at 7 pm to decorate the float. K. Aitchison will send out an email if they need supplies.

New Business

- **Annual General Meeting in January**

-It was decided that we will have a potluck dinner upstairs in the arena on Friday January 12th with doors open at 6pm and dinner at 6:30pm. Rob Bundy was suggested as a guest speaker which will be further discussed and decided at the next meeting. **R. Vinncombe will contact Abi Corbett to book the room upstairs at the arena. Confirmed with Abi that we can have the upstairs room/kitchen for the AGM.**

- **2024 OAAS Convention: February 22-24, 2024 at the Sheraton Parkway Hotel, Toronto North, Richmond Hill**

-2 rooms are booked for all 3 nights.

-M. Speer indicated that she would like to go but may have another commitment.

-As instructed at the District OAAS AGM, if we need to cancel extra room(s), please get in touch with admin@oaasfairs.com to advise so that these can be offered to those on the waiting list. Do not contact the hotel to cancel your room.

- **Draft Budget for 2024**

-R. Vinncombe will set up a meeting of the Executive to draft up a budget for review at the Dec. meeting. **Budget meeting was held on November 15th at Glenda's.**

- **Recognition for Murray Hoover's many years of service to the Ag. Society**

-R. Vinncombe recommended OASS awards and he will look into it. **Recognition certificate has been received from OASS.**

- **Other**

-R. Kellington will send a sympathy card to the family of Fred Uhler

Correspondence and Announcements

- "Finding Fairness in Farm Succession" Workshop: Thursday, November 16, 9:30 am - 4:00 pm, Goderich. Tickets: \$75.00 each. Deadline: November 2, 2023.

- Join Gateway Centre of Excellence in Rural Health as S.H.E.D. Talks presents guest speaker, Peter Johnston, "Wheat Pete's Word"! Friday, Dec. 2, 2023 from 10am - 1pm at Brussels Four Winds Event Barn, 60 Orchard Lane Brussels, Ontario, NOG 1H0. Peter is recognized as a leader in the agricultural community and will speak on his experience in relation to the need for S.H.E.D. Talks! Join us for a morning of information sessions discussing farmers wellbeing, rural agricultural barriers and Gateway CERH's S.H.E.D. Talks. To register, visit www.gatewayruralhealth.ca and follow the event link on their homepage. Any further questions can be directed at info@gatewayruralhealth.ca or 519-612-1053.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by T. Gray. The next meeting will be Wed. Dec. 6th, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at the Brussels Library.

Minutes submitted by: Rosie Kellington

Minutes approved by: Reg Vinncombe