



Location: Brussels Library

Date: Wednesday, Dec. 6, 2023

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Brussels Agricultural Society General Meeting

In Attendance

Marie McCutcheon, Loretta Higgins, Dorothy Cummings, Glenda Morrison, Mary Ann Thompson, Justin Morrison, Jeff Cardiff, Matt Cardiff, Cathy Cardiff, Rosie Kellington, Reg Vinnicombe, Margaret Speer, Joan Bernard, Murray Hoover, Linda Garland

Regrets: Monique Baan, Lori Vader, John Lowe, Pam McLellan

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

The previous meeting minutes were reviewed. The motion to approve the previous minutes from the Nov. 1, 2023 meeting (J. Bernard) was seconded (C. Cardiff) and passed.

President's Report

R. Vinnicombe reported that he was at the arena and they have replaced the electrical feed and water line. Not sure if we are getting a bill. **Action items are indicated in red throughout this report.**

Homecraft President's Report

L. Garland reminded the members that we are looking for leads for the sections led by P. McLellan (Culinary Arts), C. Cardiff (Junior) and M. and J. Cardiff (Children's Activities). If you know of anyone who might be interested please put their name forward. No experience needed because there are people to help them in each section. She emphasized that we need to recruit new members even if they are not directly living on farms and that farming affects everyone. She also stressed that we need to encourage people to go to the fair even though it's through the week. She noted that many families go to many other recreational activities like sports throughout the week. D. Cummings says we need to advertise all of the categories as in need of volunteers. Matt Cardiff suggested that we look for people who are passionate about any of our specific categories. L. Garland said we could expand our scope to promote programs relating to mental health that have speakers who may come for free or we could sponsor them. **M. McCutcheon would like to get together with L. Garland and any others who are interested in January to write up some advertisements.**

Treasurer's Report

-G. Morrison and M. Speer clarified the confusion with the tiara boxes. J. Bernard asked about our investments. G. Morrison asked about what we want to do with one investment that is coming due in December. She suggested we increase it from \$4000 to \$5000 for one year. A motion to bump the principal amount up by \$1000 for a one year GIC (J. Cardiff) was seconded (D. Cummings) and passed. A motion to give G. Morrison permission to investigate more investments in Manulife (L. Garland) was seconded (M. Speer) and passed.

Ambassadors' and Ambassador Sub-committee Reports

L. Higgins reported that she has been busy representing the Society by participating in local events including laying a wreath at the Remembrance Day Service in Brussels and taking part in the Santa Claus Parades in Seaforth, Wingham and Brussels. She will be going in the Blyth Santa Claus parade next weekend. M. Speer is looking for a driver with a truck for the Ambassadors to ride in the back for the Blyth Parade. D. Cummings suggested that she ask Ben Lootsma and Andrew Baker who did a great job helping with the Brussels Parade last weekend.

Ladies Night Sub-committee Report

G. Morrison reported that the Optimist and Arena bills have both been sent back for further consideration. We will be getting a cut of 50 cents a drink from the arena. Final bills are forthcoming.

Old Business

● AssistExpo

-R. Vinnicombe is waiting for a response to the question on how to display special award winners on the financial reports

● 2023 Wrap up

-There was no additional feedback from 2023 or suggestions for improvements

● Annual General Meeting

-The date has been set for Friday Jan. 12th at the BMG Community Centre. **R. Vinnicombe will ask about the availability at the arena for a snow date of Fri. Jan. 19th.** R. Vinnicombe suggested that Luanne McGregor from Kippen, who is associated with the Rural Ontario Institute in the role of a Rural Change Maker, be asked to be a guest speaker. **R. Vinnicombe will contact her.** J. Cardiff suggested we advertise the guest speaker in hopes of attracting more people to the AGM. **R. Vinnicombe noted that we must advertise in the local paper at least 2 weeks prior to the event.** **L. Garland volunteered to be in charge of getting paper plates, making the coffee, etc.**

● **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 reported that she cannot attend as a chaperone. D.

Cummings suggested that we could combine with Howick if necessary. R. Vinnicombe noted that early bird registration is Feb. 1, 2024.

New Business

● Draft Budget for 2024

L. Garland, R. Vinnicombe and J. Lowe met at G. Morrison's and came up with a draft budget. R. Vinnicombe says we should be getting an OMAFRA grant. G. Morrison has been working on our charitable status. Now that the tax returns have been filed, G. Morrison is hoping the charitable status will be reinstated soon. Her work on this issue is much appreciated. D. Cummings suggested we sit down and make a list of sponsors to contact going back to some former lists. D. Cummings suggested we have a donation box at the 4H barn. M. Cardiff suggested that we use the budget as a guideline and cut back as needed. R. Vinnicombe noted that proposed revenue streams based on 2023 will be available for the AGM.

● Christmas Ad in Citizen

-The motion to put an 1/8th of a page ad in the Citizen (D. Cummings) was seconded (M. Thompson) and passed. He will ask about adding the AGM to the ad.

● Clinton Raceway Fundraiser

-M. Speer described her fundraising experience that they did for Huron Manufacturing as a very positive experience in terms of profit. She informed the members that her group did a BBQ, silent auction, and a 50/50 on a Sunday afternoon. She remembers having at least 5-6 volunteers for the 50/50, 3 volunteers at the silent Auction and 4 volunteers for the hotdog bbq table. She will find out more information. R. Vinnicombe reported that we must fill out an application and identify the events we want to do. The motion to make a submission to fundraise at Clinton Raceway (M. Speer) was seconded (D. Cummings) and passed. (R Vinnicombe has completed the application process).

Correspondence and Announcements

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

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by M. Thompson . The next meeting will be our Annual General Meeting on Friday. Jan. 12th, 2024 at the BMG Community Centre upstairs with doors open at 6:00 p.m, potluck dinner at 6:30pm. Snowdate of Friday Jan. 19th, 2024 to be confirmed.

Minutes submitted by: Rosie Kellington

Minutes approved by: Reg Vinnicombe