



**Location:** Brussels Library

**Date:** Wednesday, July 5, 2023

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

## Brussels Agricultural Society General Meeting Minutes

### In Attendance

Monique Baan, Pam McLellan, Bessie Johnston, Marie Perrie, Dorothy Cummings, Murray Hoover, John Lowe, Zoellyn Onn, Margaret Speer, Paislee Ribey, Gail Jaycock, Rosie Kellington, Crystal McCallum, Justin Morrison, and Reg Vinnicombe.

**NOTE:** Quorum achieved.

### Approval of Agenda

The agenda was reviewed. The motion to approve the agenda (M. Baan) was seconded (Z. Onn) and passed.

### Approval of Minutes

The previous meeting minutes were reviewed. The motion to approve the previous minutes from the June 5, 2023 meeting (G. Jaycock) was seconded (D. Cummings) and passed.

### President's Report

R. Vinnicombe welcomed attendees and gave updates on the action items from the last meeting. These updates are noted throughout these minutes. **Action items are indicated in red.**

R. Vinnicombe reported that:

- the Lottery License has been updated and signing authority has been granted
- for the Elimination Draw to be held Sept. 9, 2023, the Brussels Lions have asked to borrow tables.

### Homecraft President's Report

R. Vinnicombe reminded members that all judges are booked. L. Garland indicated in an email that two apprenticeship judges will be attending in Fruits and Vegetables and Photography sections.

### Treasurer's Report

J. Lowe indicated that previous minutes should state that we have received one grant from Morris-Turnberry. **(J. Lowe and G. Morrison to share an updated Financial Report Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss Statement which was done immediately following the meeting)**

## Ambassadors' and Ambassador Sub-committee Reports

M. Speer reported that the Sub-Committee met and discussed how they can evolve our competition in terms of format. She noted that weekends are busy for those who would like to run, committee and board members alike. She noted that finding qualified judges and people who want to run has been a challenge. This year there is only one contestant committed and one that is interested and both are very busy with other interests. On behalf of the committee, she recommended that we model our competition similar to Glencoe's model in which contestants would submit a Powerpoint, Google slides, or written entry on the given topic. A judging panel would go over the entries before the night of the announcement to decide on a winner based on similar criteria as the current competition outline. She reported that contestants are used to this style of program as a lot of assignments in the current school curriculum are handled in this format. The winner's Powerpoint/written entry and essays from the Junior and Little entries will still be read/delivered.

The options on when and how we announce the winners, either at the Library or at the Legion, were discussed. The Sub-Committee believed it is critical to still hold the program over the summer. If possible, we would still like to use the Legion as they have never charged us a rental fee for the Ambassador Competition. We would still reach out to our community for donations and have light refreshments such as our famous lemonade and a few goodies. M. Speer reported that they are all very proud of our program and feel it is time to evolve to the needs/growth of our community's youth. They see growth in the Ambassadors as they hold their reign. They all feel that Ambassadors play a very important role in our fair and they would like to keep that tradition going. The motion to support and approve the recommendations by the Sub-committee of the change to the format of the Ambassadors' competition (Z. Onn) was seconded ( D. Cummings) and passed.

**(M. Speer to share new ambassadors' ads on social media (under our Facebook page.))**

After a discussion we decided that the competition would be moved to a later date in August as the regularly scheduled meeting on August 2nd was too soon to coordinate all the changes. The competition will be held on August 23rd at the Brussels Legion at 7pm.

P. Ribey recapped her experience at the District 8 Ambassador Competition on Saturday, May 6, 2023 at the Milverton Legion. M. Speer, on behalf of herself and D. Haanstra added that P. Ribey did a good job representing the Brussels Fall Fair.

M. Baan asked if M. Speer had been contacted about the Fair Craft Days at the Brussels Library, which are occurring the two Saturdays before the Fair. M. Speer to arrange for one or more Ambassadors to attend.

## Farm and Food Care Ontario (FFCO) Sub-committee Report

M. Baan reported that FFCO sent an email expressing their extreme gratitude to all the volunteers from the Breakfast on the Farm for making this event a memorable experience for everyone involved. Thanks to everyone's efforts, they were able to bring over 1,000 non-farming Ontarians to the event to connect

with farmers and learn more about the Ag. industry. They indicated that the day was incredible and the feedback from guests was very positive.

## Ladies Night Sub-committee Report

D. Cummings reported that tickets for the Ladies Night that will take place on Saturday, October 21, 2023, at the Brussels, Morris & Grey Community Centre will be available before their next Sub-committee meeting on August 8th. Tickets will cost about \$60 each. A fair way to distribute the 250 tickets was briefly discussed as there has been high demand in the past. The Brussels Optimists will be preparing smoked pork chops and our Society members will be asked to sign up to volunteer to provide tarts and squares for the dinner.

## Old Business

### AssistExpo Set-up and Orientation

R. Vinnicombe reminded attendees that he has taken over the AssistExpo set-up and training. He reported that the first orientation for AssistExpo went reasonably well and members are welcome to the home of Z. Onn for the second orientation.

### Ideas for Our Future Fairs

The following future Fair ideas were discussed:

#### Marketing of the Fair:

- i) Rural Voice Ad: M. Bann asked the attendees if they would reconsider putting a small ad for \$175 in the Rural Voice Farm Magazine due to its wide readership especially with the farmers. A motion to approve the purchase of the ad (D. Cummings) was seconded (M. Baan) and passed. (J. Lowe to purchase ad.)
- ii) R. Kellington and H. Jonuschies have delivered printed copies of the Fall Fair booklets and postcard advertisements to local businesses and will continue to supply them as needed and requested. (R. Kellington will make a FB post providing a picture of the front of the FF booklet and a link to the website) She still has postcard advertisements and FF booklets available if anyone is wanting one

Basket raffle: The sign-up sheet for Raffle Basket ticket sales at the upcoming Brussels Farmers' Markets was sent around the room. Members were encouraged to volunteer their time to sell tickets. (R. Kellington will send out another email requesting more volunteers sign up. R. Kellington and D. Cummings to arrange for supplies (tent, chair, signs, basket, Fall Fair postcards and booklets, etc. and J. Lowe the tickets and float) These supplies can be picked up by the first volunteer on R. Kellington's front porch (746 Sports Drive) on the morning of the market and the raffle tickets and float can be picked up at the home of J. Lowe (792B Sports Drive). The supplies from Rosie and the float from John can be returned by the last volunteer to Muzzies Barber Shop on main street immediately following the market.

Updated list of sponsors is in the FF booklet.

New ambassadors will be attending the FF.

### Entertainment:

- R. Vinnicombe confirmed that Small Hooves Big Hearts Petting Zoo is booked. ● Canadian Raptor Conservatory Birds of Prey Show. (M. Cardiff to confirm they are booked)
- Huron Tract Spinners & Weavers Guild will be attending the FF.

### **ONCA and OAAS Constitution & Bylaw Templates**

R. Vinnicombe reported that we are waiting to hear from the OAAS regarding these templates.

### **Hydro Line to the Shed**

R. Vinnicombe reported that the water and hydro lines haven't been installed, but that we have prepared a cheque to cover half of the cost of the hydro line feed (\$4,250.00) as requested by the Municipality of Huron East. This cheque will be issued once an invoice is received. The municipality indicated that the work would be completed on or before the fair.

### BMG Community Centre Renovations:

- R. Vinnicombe reported that the new entrance will not be available for the FF. Once the kitchen is ready, then the auditorium will be available. After a discussion, it was decided that it would be best if the bleachers go in through the Olympia door on the west side of the arena. R. Vinnicombe noted that HE needs to clean up the area around the construction site, particularly at the back by the 4H pavilion.

## **New Business:**

### **Ag. Society Secretary Printer**

M. Cardiff was not able to find a working printer for R. Kellington to use for Ag. Society administrative purposes. She will be purchasing a new printer before the next meeting. Thanks to J. Morrison for helping her test her printers.

### **Banners**

R. Kellington reported that the cost of the Brussels 150th Homecoming banners were \$12 and sold for \$20. A motion to approve the purchase of 160th FF banners from D. Cummings at Barmy Tech for \$12 and sell for \$20 (Z. Onn) was seconded (J. Lowe) and passed. (Z. Onn will send a layout. D. Cummings to make up 25 or 50 pennants to start and make more as needed)

## **Correspondence and Announcements**

- OAAS 175th Central Canada Exhibition Association Scholarship Application due July 31, 2023 (financial assistance for post-secondary students in Ontario who are actively involved with their Ag Society. If interested, ask Rosie for more information)
- Brussels Ambassador of the Fair Competition: August 23, 2023 at the Brussels Legion. Additional details to follow.
- 2023 Brussels Fall Fair: September 19-20, 2023 at the Brussels, Morris & Grey Community Centre. Theme: Bank Barns and Spinning Yarns
- 2024 OAAS Convention: February 22-24, 2024 at the Sheraton Parkway Hotel, Toronto North, Richmond Hill. Details to follow

## Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by D. Cummings. The next meeting will be Wednesday, August 2nd, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at the Brussels Legion Downstairs. Details to follow.

Minutes submitted by: Rosie Kellington

Minutes approved by: Reg Vinnicombe