



Location: Brussels Library

Date: Wednesday, Feb. 7th, 2024

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Brussels Agricultural Society General Meeting

In Attendance

Linda Garland, Monique Baan, Joan Bernard, Rosie Kellington, Reg Vinnicombe, Mary Ann Thompson, Marie McCutcheon, Dorothy Cummings, Justin Morrison, Monique Baan, Jackie Garniss, Glenda Morrison, Pam McLellan, Crystal Blake, Jeff Cardiff, Cathy Cardiff, Sandra Machan, Mary Douma, Bessie Johnston, Jill Wagemans

Regrets: Zoelynn Onn, Maggie Speer

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

The previous meeting minutes were reviewed. The motion to approve the previous minutes from the Dec. 6, 2023 meeting (M. Thompson) was seconded (D. Cummings) and passed.

President's Report

No report.

Homecraft President's Report

L. Garland discussed the Family Fun Fair being planned for Sunday May 5, 2024 at the Brussels Legion starting at 1pm. Judges have been lined up. Buckets of junk materials will be at Murray's Barber Shop for interested parties. L. Garland passed out a draft poster that she prepared for comments from the members. There will be prizes for 8 categories. Budget of \$100 for prizes and \$100 for Legion fee. We can hand out bags of candy and perhaps cotton candy from Leos so a possible \$100 donation to the Leo's. M Douma asked if the pillow cases could be displayed and Garland agreed that was a good idea. A picture of the group was taken. A motion that we allocate \$350 as a budget for the Family Fun Fair (S. Machan) was seconded (D. Cummings) and passed. Z. Onn has volunteered to head the Junior Section. Still need people to lead the children's activities and culinary arts.

Treasurer's Report

-G. Morrison asked if we want to put an ad in the Citizen for the March 22, 2024 edition. A motion to put an ad in the Citizen for the Fall Fair and Family Fun Fair (D. Cummings) was

seconded (S. Machan) and passed.

-G. Morrison asked the members for direction regarding the GIC maturing on March 1st, 2024. The motion to get G. Morrison to put the \$6000 into a 6 month GIC (J. Cardiff) was seconded (J. Wagemans) and passed.

-CRA has indicated that we are not to donate money from our events to other community groups. G. Morrison confirmed that as a group, we are raising money to run our fair, not to donate to other public groups. She stated that we need to be careful when running fundraising events that it is clear where the funds for specific activities are going (eg. silent auction). This is particularly important moving forward in order to get our charity status back and improve public perceptions. Our mandate is clearly to promote agriculture and the Fair.

Ambassadors' and Ambassador Sub-committee Reports

No report. M. Speer sent an email indicating that they are having a meeting very soon to discuss this year's Ambassador Competition.

Ladies Night Sub-committee Report

D. Cummings reported that this group will be meeting next week.

Old Business

● AssistExpo

-R. Vinnicombe indicated that we still need to complete the process to convert to 2024 data. In addition, we still need an answer on how to view special awards in financial reports. R. Vinnicombe is hoping to talk to someone in person at the conference to get these answers.

● **2024 OAAS Convention:** February 22-24, 2024 at the Sheraton Parkway Hotel, Toronto North, Richmond Hill -2 rooms are booked for all 3 nights.

-L. Higgins, R. Vinnicombe and L. Vader are registered to attend the conference with Jessica Miller from Howick acting as a chaperone for L. Higgins.

-The local winner for honey at the District 8 competition, Dianne Diehl, will be entering again in the OAAS competition. **R. Vinnicombe will take her entry to the conference.**

-Some ideas were discussed for possible silent auction items to be taken to the conference. The motion to spend up to \$100 on products from the Terpstra Lavender Farm for the OAAS conference silent auction (D. Cummings) was seconded (C. Blake) and passed.

● 2024 Fairbook updates

-R. Vinnicombe reminded section leads to get any edits from their section to Z. Onn

-After some discussion, it was decided to stay with the current format of sponsor ads and logos in the sections in the Fair book.

New Business

● R. Vinnicombe will be presenting our financial report to the Lion's at their Feb 19th meeting, at which time they will decide if they are going to donate this year.

● The Clinton Raceway fundraiser application has been submitted and we have been notified that our date is Sunday August 25th, 2024. They will provide us with further details closer to the date.

- The motion that we pay the website renewal fee for 2 years at \$250 US (M. Baan) was seconded (C. Blake) and passed.
- R. Vinnicombe presented the new rental rates for the BMG Community Centre from Huron East of which many are based on hourly fees. There are also new fees for their public buildings including the Library. This is a concern for our group with the Fall Fair covering several days from setup until take down. Presently we use the arena for the Fair at no cost. J. Cardiff indicated that there is a longstanding gentleman's agreement that the Ag. Society does not have to pay for use of the BMG Community Centre for the Fall Fair based on past donations. Councillor J. Morrison indicated that HE is setting new rental rates based on the research conducted by new staff from other municipalities with the intention of improving consistency amongst renters. R. Vinnicombe will set up a meeting with Lissa Berard and Brad. McRoberts from Huron East and J. Cardiff would like to attend.
- R. Vinnicombe explained the breakdown of responsibilities between J. Lowe and G. Morrison in terms of treasurer. G. Morrison is the official treasurer and will handle day to day finances with J. Lowe providing support with fundraising, OMAFRA grant application, membership renewal and as 3rd signing authority. The motion to update J. Lowe's position to treasurer - other signing authority in the minutes of the AGM (C. Blake) was seconded (J. Wagemans) and passed.

Correspondence and Announcements

- 2024 OAAS Convention: February 22-24, 2024 at the Sheraton Parkway Hotel Toronto North, Richmond Hill.
- Webinar: Entitlement Vs Fairness in Farm Transition, Feb. 29, 1:30-2:30 pm (Ask Rosie for details)
- Brussels Fall Fair, Theme is Pork & Beans, September 17 - 18, 2024

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by D. Cummings . The next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 6th, 7:00 pm, Brussels Library

Minutes submitted by: Rosie Kellington

Minutes approved by: Reg Vinnicombe