



Location: Brussels Library

Date: Wednesday, Nov. 6th, 2024

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Brussels Agricultural Society General Meeting

In Attendance

Reg Vinnicombe, Glenda Morrison, Rosie Kellington, Monique Baan, Jackie Garniss, Jeff Cardiff, Pam McLellan, Dorothy Cummings, John Lowe, Mary Douma, Marie Perry, Rhonda McArter, Jenna Baker, Crystal McCallum, Bridget McCallum, Sharon Loveridge, Lori Vader, Peggy Aitchison, John Lowe, Marie McCutcheon, Jenna Baker,

Regrets: Sandra Machan, Maggie Speer, Mary Ann Thompson, Joan Bernard, Crystal Blake

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was reviewed. The motion to approve the agenda as amended was made by M. Baan, seconded by P. Aitchison, motion carried.

Presentation of Awards to District 8 Winners - Cathy Goetz-maple syrup, Liana Baker-honey, M. A. Thompson-tarts (absent). **Picture was taken for the Citizen (J. Lowe) and social media (R. Kellington)**

Approval of Minutes

The previous meeting minutes (Oct. 2, 2024) were reviewed. The motion to approve the previous minutes made by D. Cummings, seconded by M. Douma, motion carried.

President's Report

R. Vinnicombe reported that the OAAS website for fair dates can be updated any time now. There is an opportunity to attend a Zoom meeting to go over the consequences of missing the October 19th deadline by OMAFRA to have the updated constitution approved.

Homecraft Report

No new report. Reg. Vinnicombe reminded the **section leads to submit any changes to their section's entry lists in the Fair Book to Z. Onn right away so it can be updated, proof-read and ready to go out to the public in January (without ads). Thanks to those who have submitted changes. Still waiting on J. Lowe, L. Vader and M. Perrie. Zoey also mentioned that D. Cumimngs could wait to update the crop exhibits and prizes for her section because it isn't until later that the crops come off so no need to post this section ahead of time (I listen D.!) Also, leads are asked to please let L. Garland know if you'd like the same judges for next year and for any comments so she can get them booked for our next Fair.**

Treasurer's Report

Glenda Morrison reported that under Profit and Loss, the Ladies Night income has been added showing a profit with a couple of bills to still come in. In terms of the Balance Sheet, Glenda noted that we have some money to invest now and more in December, so she asked for direction from members. Motion to give G. Morrison authority to invest \$20,000 by J. Cardiff, seconded by M. Baan, motion carried. There was some discussion regarding money in accounts with little interest. Motion was amended by J. Cardiff, seconded by M. Baan to give G. Morrison authority to change the investment from \$20,000 to \$35,000, motion carried. Carrying a higher bank balance may result in sponsors not donating money for next year's Fair. R. Vinnicombe noted that the surplus this year only makes up for the deficit in the last 2 years. We have to carry a balance to be prepared for unforeseen expenses eg. waterline and hydro service extension to the Ag. shed. HE has new guidelines for the grant application process with applications needing to be submitted by the end of September (date for 2025 applications to be released once council approves changes). It was noted that our financial year is Jan-Dec so suggested to HE to use previous year financials (would align with OMAFA grant process). The HE policy mentions application guidelines which were not included in the original email nor could be found on the municipality website. We can't use their funds for operating expenses, it must be a project. The policy states that grants may not be approved if the applicant has surplus funds that are not designated to a specific project. Are we allowed to keep a surplus bank balance to ensure the viability of the fair when unexpected expenses or situations occur? M. Baan recommended getting the virtual reality demonstration from Farm and Food Care Ontario. The motion to approve the Treasurer's Report made by R. McArter, seconded by M. McCutcheon, motion carried.

Ambassadors' and Ambassador Sub-committee Reports

Junior Ambassador, B. McCallum, reported it was a slower month after all the Fairs were over. She is looking forward to representing Brussels in the Santa Claus parade. R. Kellington read a report on behalf of Emily Bieman, the Brussels Fair Ambassador which outlined all the fun she had at Ladies Night. She is looking forward to attending the Seaforth and Wingham Santa Claus parades and the euchre tournament. R. Kellington read a report on behalf of M. Speer. She reinforced how keen the Ambassadors are for the upcoming Santa Claus parades. Her Committee is currently working out parade attendance schedules and she thinks between all the parents, she has trucks for the Ambassadors to ride in for the parades. If it turns out that they need wheels for a parade, she will be sure to reach out to the Fair Board via email. Please be sure to catch the Citizen as our own Ambassador Emily is featured. It is a fantastic article. Sophia Blake, the Little Ambassador is currently showing her calves at The Farm Fair International Show in Alberta. She spent some time at the end of October with J. Lowe handing out prize money at Northwoods Elementary.

Ladies Night Sub-committee Report

J. Fischer reported that Ladies Night was very successful and fun with lots of positive feedback. She thanked everyone who provided cheesecakes and pies and helped to clean up after the dinner. The members thanked Cardiff Catering for the absolutely delicious meal with a round of applause. In first place, the Legion team donated \$200 back to the Brussels Legion and in second place, the RBI's donated \$100 to Soup and More2.

Old Business

- Fall Fair - J. Lowe reported that all the prize money has been distributed
- Feedback from members who attended District 8 Fall Meeting at Howick Community Centre on Tuesday October 22 - Dorothy Cummings reported that the meal was excellent, and it was a well run meeting. They talked about the Constitution and the importance of complying with the OAAS requirements (i.e. remain in good standing) or they will take away our rights. The District 8 board member was suspended (no official reason was provided) but has since been reinstated. R. Vinnicombe noted that the Constitution has to be approved at our AGM so we meet the Ontario Not-for-Profit Act. The Constitution is a living document and updates can be made if the members feel additional changes are warranted after the AGM. D. Cummings discussed the Field of Dreams fundraiser that Listowel runs which we can discuss later. Next year the District 8 Annual Meeting will be hosted by the Mitchell District Ag. Society.
- BMG Grand Opening Euchre Tournament on Saturday Nov. 16th - R. Kellington outlined that the tournament will be upstairs at arena, register at 12:45pm, start at 1pm, \$20 per team, bring your own partner, pay that day, just for fun and a few prizes, licensed bar, call Rosie (519) 531-0467 or Glenda (519) 503-4192 or email brusselsagsociety@gmail.com. Unfortunately, HE who was responsible for advertising the Grand Opening and the schedule of events did not get approval from higher levels of government until today, so the ad just came out which she felt was very unfortunate for its success. She asked **members to please sign up if possible and post the blue posters around Brussels and surrounding towns, share our FB posts and info. to family, friends-workers, other groups, etc.** She mentioned that people have been signing up with 48 people (12 tables) so far, but we have room for **many** more teams in the room upstairs at the arena. **D. Cummings will help run the tournament. S. Loveridge will come early to set up. R. Kellington has received a donation of snacks from Brussels Foodland for the tournament. Any suggestions/connections for prizes?**
- Brussels Santa Claus Parade - Dec. 7th, 5pm, **J. Baker will ask if we can use the Agromart shed and set up a time to decorate.** The theme of our next Fair is Overalls and Aprons and the town's theme is Canadian Christmas. **R. Kellington will send Sarah Strome an email telling her to add the Date and theme to our big poster.**
- D. Cummings would like a light with a switch in the Ag.shed and will ensure it gets done.
- Constitution
 - Review of draft Constitution - we were able to complete a review of about half of the Constitution. We will finish the review at the next meeting so it is ready for the AGM in January.

New Business

- AGM - It was decided to do a potluck dinner. **M. Douma will ask if the Melville Presbyterian Church is available to rent on Wed. Jan. 22, with snow date Wed. Jan. 29th, 2025. R. Kellington is away on a trip from Jan. 15-22.** There will be no general meeting the first week of January. It was suggested that Justin Morrison be asked to be the guest speaker to present his work on our new and improved website design. R. Vinnicombe asked members to think about nominations for the Director position for the next meeting so we are more prepared at the AGM.

Correspondence And Announcements

- Non-Profit Network Perth-Huron - Unlocking Grant Success: Tips, Tricks and Best Practices for Community Organizations - Zoom Seminar - Wed. Dec. 4th, 10am-11:30 am (Ask Rosie for more info.)
- Training Sessions on the Process for Completing the 2024 Annual Return and Grant Application, Nov. 28th and Jan. 13th, 7pm-8pm. (Ask Rosie for more info.)
- OAAS Convention, Feb. 20-22, 2025. Sheraton Parkway Hotel, Richmond Hill, ON, 2 rooms booked, Maggie and Emily, Crystal and Rosie (maybe)
- Huron County Economic Development Board's Supporting Local Youth Program offers grants of up to \$1,000 for youth-led initiatives and activities that provide opportunities for Huron County youth between the ages of 14 and 19 years of age in the following priority areas: Social Cohesion, Community Connectedness, Creative Expression, Social Justice Issues, Climate Change and Sustainability, Mental Health, Financial Literacy and/or New Economic Activities. Applications will be assessed and awarded on a merit basis. Projects are assessed by a review panel made up of representatives from Huron County's Economic Development Board, Huron Arts & Heritage Network (HAHN) and community youth from the target demographic. Funding applications are due by 4:30 PM on November 22, 2024. Applicants will be notified of funding decisions by email no later than Thursday, December 12, 2024. For more information and to apply, visit:
<https://www.huroncounty.ca/economic-development/our-services/incentives-programs/slyp/>
This is a pilot program. There are currently no plans in place to offer this program on an ongoing basis. **Initiatives must be completed by April 30th. This would be a great opportunity for youth who want to lead a winter program or Earth Day clean-up initiative. The Municipality would be interested in possible partnerships.** Members suggested the idea of lending book libraries/huts or keeping the Fairy Door program going. Pete and Gail Jaycock are looking after it now. **R. Kellington to send them an email with the details to see if they might be interested in having help from a youth and to guide them.**

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by R. McArter.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, Dec. 4th. at 7:00 pm, Brussels Library

Minutes submitted by: Rosie Kellington

Minutes approved by: Reg Vinnicombe

Action items are indicated in red.