

Minutes of the March 25, 2019 Shawnigan Cobble Hill Farmers Institute General Meeting held at 7 p.m. in the Cobble Hill Hall.

Those present: President George Robbins, Joyce Behnsen, Tony Jackson, Sarah Jackson, Claudia McLeod, Joy Cameron, George Baird, Bonnie Wadds, Gord Dickenson, Heather Dickenson, Lynne Pohynayko, Dawn Smiley, Shirley Cooke, Irene Evans, Blair Herbert and Gerry Giles - Secretary.

Apologies: Robin Brett, John English, Bill Dumont and Laureen Van Der Meulen

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 by President George Robbins and agenda was adopted by consensus.

Moved Joy Cameron

Second Heather Dickenson

The minutes of the January 28 2019 membership meeting be adopted as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

Unfortunately the speaker on Farm Safety was cancelled due to illness.

President George briefly reported on Seedy Saturday, the work done on the front stairs, the Fair reorganization, outstanding local egg farmers and the article in Island Farm & Garden.

Robin provided the following written update on Seedy Saturday. In the Main Hall, Seedy Saturday had about the same number of people as last year, however Paul Belton said he observed that there were more people than last year. In spite of the cold weather most vendors said they had a good day. The number of vendors was about the same with a few interesting new additions. Most vendors from last year registered again this year, but many vendors increased the number of tables they rented so we took in more money from vendors than last year. One or two vendors from last year were not with us this year due to family issues, but they all asked to be included for next year. We look forward to new and interesting vendors each year that provide interesting counterpoint to the seed and plants companies, and some of the vendors of garden art also expressed interested in being vendors at the fair. Seed Exchange sales were also up thanks to a huge donation of organic seeds from Green Thumb Nursery in Nanaimo. Consumables included tea, coffee and goodies to welcome vendors, and also seeds for the children's area. We awarded free raffle prizes and gave two vendors prizes which were well received.

A financial report from Robin was also read.

Blair update the meeting on changes to the structure of the Fair Committee. He explained a meeting was held on March 11, 2019 with those interested in the Fair where it was made clear that with attendance and entries down there is a need to improve the Fair. This notion was also heard at last year's Fair debriefing session held in September of 2018. The comments made then were examined by the Farmers Institute Board who adopted a new Fair committee structure charged with examining ways to improve the Fair. When asked about the changes

coming, Blair said one will be to locate the entertainment stage in the vendor market in the Cobble Hill Common to ensure Fair goers are drawn into that area. It was reiterated the Fair is the Farmers Institutes biggest fundraiser and it helps to support the activities of the organization. Many questions were asked and answered about the need for the structural change being proposed. It was again stated, the new Fair committee structure was set at the direction of the Farmers Institute board, not any one individual, in an attempt to improve the overall experience our guests have while at the Fair and to increase attendance while also increasing Fair entries.

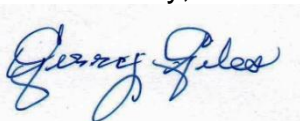
Gerry provided an update on Rentals and indicated it was now becoming difficult to find rental space to meeting current demands. She explained the keypad locking system currently used on the main hall is now being installed on both the Youth and the Stu Armour Halls.

In Bill's absence the following maintenance report was read. A lot of the maintenance work in March focussed on dealing with snow and freezing issues and preparing for Seedy Saturday.

- Cleaned out AV room of old AV equipment ready for Rotary use
- Donated old microphones, amplifiers and speakers to Cobble Hill historical society.
- Purchased and replaced elephant feet door stoppers on main hall doors
- Repaired sink drain in Youth Hall kitchen
- Repaired ladies toilet (right) in Main hall
- Moved old large speakers from stage into basement
- Completed service and repairs to Kitchen dishwasher
- Salted and ploughed snow around Armour building
- Prepared estimate for new AV lock up room on left side of main hall stage
- Obtained two estimates for repair/replacement of main hall wood floor and maintenance of the kitchen and lunchroom floors
- Purchased two 1000 watt light stands for use in Armour building at ends of building that have no installed lighting
- Disposed of damaged hall piano
- Located volunteer to build a new speaker's podium for the Main Hall
- Purchased battery powered LED light for new podium
- Advertised sale of old SCHFIAS speakers and other surplus equipment
- Obtained estimate to repair ice damaged gutters on Armour building and cleaning of all gutters on building.
- Obtained estimate for purchase of 54 new chairs for Youth and Main hall
- Prepare and present a report on the hall floors.

There being no other items of business the meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m. on a motion by Joy Cameron.

Submitted by,



Gerry Giles, Secretary