

Minutes of the Farmers Institute Directors Meeting held on Monday, June 21, 2021 at 7 pm in the Cobble Hill Hall - 3550 Watson Avenue.

Those present: Roger Painter - President, Roy Davies - Vice President, Robin Brett - Treasurer, Bill Wikkerink, Gord Dickenson, Jayne Shaw, Blair Herbert, Russell Dann and Gerry Giles - Secretary. Brenda Burch tried to join via zoom but the sound system failed.

Moved Bill Wikkerink  
Second Jayne Shaw  
the agenda be accepted as presented. MOTION CARRIED

Moved Robin Brett  
Second Blair Herbert  
the May 17, 2021 minutes be accepted. MOTION CARRIED

Business from the Director's Minutes:

- A discussion took place on the Centennial Celebration events and although no new ideas were brought forward, Roger, as President of the organization, is to contact the *Citizen* to see if they will publish a story about the 100th anniversary of the Cobble Hill Hall and perhaps the 112<sup>th</sup> Cobble Hill Fair
- Constitution and Bylaw - on hold
- Tecky expanded internet service provisions - on hold pending funding.

President's Report - Roger reported his time has been taken up with grounds and that he is very grateful to Al Garside for the work he does mowing the lawns and to the other volunteers who came out and helped on the 12<sup>th</sup> of June. The transplanted trees seem to be doing well.

Moved Roy Davies  
Second Gord Dickenson  
the President's report be accepted. MOTION CARRIED

Correspondence:

- Sent - thank you letters went to Bill & Dee Motherwell, Nick Hill and Irene Evans along with Barry & Annie Fisher for their donations
- Sent - to Mike Wilson re gas tax funding... we do not qualify
- Received - congratulatory card on our 100th Anniversary from Evergreen Independent School.

Treasurer's Report - Robin provided the financial statements along with the following comments:

"Over the years the institute has often spend the Fair money before we received it. Last year at this time our financial position was in a loss of over \$30,000 – a larger loss than we had ever experienced. This meant that last year's fair would barely have filled that financial deficit, with nothing left over to carry us through the winter months when our revenue is typically low. Then Covid hit and everything we normally did to raise money got cancelled. We have lived on borrowed time for years. It seems like every time we have a bit of money, we have felt compelled to spend it, forgetting that our regular bills still must be paid. It came as a shock to most people that we need \$3,000 just to pay basic bills every month. Half of that \$3,000 is for insurance alone. Faced with no earnings and a huge deficit, there have been times over the last 15 months, when I seriously doubted our ability to come through this.

We've made money in small projects where we knew we would be guaranteed to make money. We have refused proposals where we were unsure that would happen because we could not afford any programs that sustained losses. We've made do with what we have. Where we've done some upgrades, we have stayed within a strict budget. And by reducing our spending to essentials only, we have survived not only the first lockdown but subsequent ones as well.

The volunteers who have given up countless hours of their time over the last 15 months have learned something too: to live within our means, to save for things we want and then do them, to budget, and to work together towards a common goal. We have broken bread together (only in our case it was pastry). Sometimes the work has seemed endless, and it has taken all our energy to just come in another day, when we really did not want to get out of bed. We've worked hard.

These are qualities that people 100 years ago cherished, and it's been both challenging and comforting to get back to those basic values ourselves. I think the volunteers from 100 years ago would have been proud of us! I want to thank Jason Walker for pushing me to start some serious planning when he did. It was very difficult to face our financial situation back in March 2020. But Jason's insistence on facing it and planning, saved us."

Moved Bill Wikkerink  
Second Russell Dann  
the treasurer's report be accepted as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

#### Secretary's Report - Gerry

- Centennial Project Update - no report as we are still waiting on the lawyer to finish the work required to consolidate the property. However, Roger and I are working on 2 grant applications now... 1 for the BC Lottery Corporation and 1 for a Green and Inclusive Building grant from the Federal Government
- Article and ad for South Cowichan Life were produced and submitted.

Fundraising Committee - waiting for one outstanding fence sign.

Rentals Report - Gerry indicated that TOPS were now back in the main hall and the Dog Club is again using the Stu Armour Hall both Tuesdays and Wednesdays. It was agreed the rent structure will be examined at the next meeting.

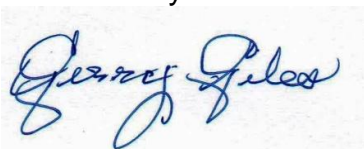
Maintenance Report - Robin provided an update on the Youth Hall indicating it could be back in service in July.

112<sup>th</sup> Cobble Hill Fair - Blair has scheduled a Fair meeting for Thursday, June 24th at 3 p.m. in the Cobble Hill Hall.

As there was no new business Blair Herbert moved the meeting adjourn at 7:50 p.m.

Next meeting - July 19, 2021

Submitted by



Gerry Giles, Secretary