

Minutes of the Farmers Institute Directors Meeting held at 7 p.m. via Zoom on Monday, September 20 , 2021.

Those present: Roger Painter - President, Robin Brett - Treasurer, Russell Dann, Brenda Burch and Gerry Giles - Secretary.

The meeting was called to order by President Roger Painter who requested acceptance of or additions to the agenda. As there were no additions the agenda was accepted by consensus.

Moved            Robin Brett  
Second          Russell Dann  
the minutes of September 16, 2021 be accepted as distributed.        MOTION CARRIED

Business from the Director's Minutes:

- Jayne Shaw has been appointed to the Duncan Dabbers Society as authorized.
- After discussion it was agreed the review of the Constitution and Bylaw should proceed and a committee was formed of Robin Brett, Russell Dann, Gerry Giles, Roger Painter with Rob Senkpiel being asked by Robin to participate.

President's Report - Roger expressed his thanks to all of the volunteers who helped with the Day of Celebration and the Cobble Hill Virtual Fair. The Show & Shine volunteers were great with setup and cleanup. The concert was terrific and having the Chinese community involved with the day was exceptional.

He indicated yard work is getting done and the grounds are being prepared for winter. Jim is working hard and the grounds are looking very good.

Moved            Robin Brett  
Second          Russell Dann  
the President's report be accepted as presented.                                MOTION CARRIED

Correspondence: Price's Alarm (now Telus) is showing a low battery alarm in the main hall so the battery needs to be replaced. The cost for doing this is \$99.00. It was agreed this should proceed and stickers should also be provided for the Youth Hall and the Stu Armour Hall.

Treasurer's Report - Robin provided the following financial report. "While the Current Earnings show as \$74,000, we need to remember that \$42,000 of that is money raised for the Centennial Project. So, setting aside that money, the actual Current Earnings are more like \$32,000. We know that in the past years we spent more on the buildings than we earned in rentals, trying to bring the buildings into good repair. In this year of no rentals, naturally we've spent more on maintenance than we earned in rentals. But by keeping our expenses to a minimum we have been able to keep our heads above water in the Hall and Grounds category - \$6,000 of which was used to renovate the Youth Hall. All our buildings are now in good repair. But even with ongoing maintenance costs, in the rest of our programs, we made money. Our Current Earnings show what can be achieved by numerous projects all making just a bit of money in each program: Tree Planting, Seedy Saturday, Red Cross Program, Car Show, Catering, Cobble Hill Fair and the Food Bank Program.

Even under a restricted Covid budget, it costs between \$3000 and \$4000 per month to pay the basic bills of the Institute. So, it is important that we end our fiscal year with between \$36,000 and \$45,000 in the bank, to carry us through the next year; and especially important

in times like these where we don't know if we will be able to have our normal events or rentals. We must be more creative and think outside the box for events that make money, while keeping to all the guidelines from the Ministry of Health. So, we have had outdoor shows replacing indoor exhibits, and sold meat pies to generate income. I am aware that I have been steadily nagging to keep our spending under control. I've been sitting on this board for years and watched us go from a board that didn't give finances one second's worth of thought, to one where finances are the first thing that comes up when we consider anything new. While neither extreme is ideal, in these times being penny pinching has its place.

The proof is - we're still here. Twenty-one months ago, Jason and I came out of our first Covid budget meeting feeling very worried. I honestly wasn't sure it was possible for us to dig ourselves out of the hole we were in and survive 2 months, never mind 21. But we have adapted to the times we are in and we're still here!"

Moved Brenda Burch  
Second Russell Dann  
the Treasurer's report be accepted as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

Secretary's Report - Gerry provided an update on the Centennial Project and the funding applications submitted to date. She also updated the Board on the work being done by Polaris Land Surveyors and by the Legal Firm of Cox Taylor.

Rentals Report - Gerry indicated that beginning in October the Stu Armour Hall will be rented 3 days a week. However, the Youth Hall and the Cobble Hill Hall are currently underutilized.

Maintenance Report - work done on the Youth Hall is almost complete. All that is needed now is blinds and painting the bathroom.

Moved Russell Dann  
Second Robin Brett  
all reports be accepted as given.

MOTION CARRIED

#### New Business

- The Halloween bonfire was discussed and provided the Covid numbers do not increase significantly, it was

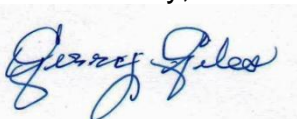
Moved Brenda Burch  
Second Gerry Giles  
Halloween bonfire proceed as usual.

MOTION CARRIED

- It was agreed the Annual General Meeting would be held on November 22, 2021.

As there was no further business it was moved by Russell Dann to adjourn at 8:00 p.m.

Submitted by,



Gerry Giles, Secretary