

Minutes of the Farmers Institute Directors Meeting held at 7 p. m. on Monday, January 16th 2023 in the Youth Hall located at 3565 Watson Avenue in Cobble Hill.

Those present: Roy Davies - Vice President, Robin Brett - Treasurer, Russell Dann, Lynne Pohynayko, Gord Dickenson, George Baird, Bill Wikkerink and Gerry Giles - Secretary.

Apologies: Roger Painter, Jayne Shaw, Dave Bilkoski and Nellie Poelman.

Moved Robin Brett
Second Lynne Pohynayko
the agenda be accepted with two additions. MOTION CARRIED

Moved Lynne Pohynayko
Second Bill Wikkerink
the November 21, 2022 minutes be accepted as distributed. MOTION CARRIED

Moved Gord Dickenson
Second George Baird
the AGM Minutes of November 28, 2022 be accepted. MOTION CARRIED

Business from the Director's Minutes:

- Septic System Pump Out - Robin will schedule once construction on the new storage room addition is finished.

Correspondence -

1. South Cowichan Rotary - receive and file their letter to the Board indicating their move to Kerry Park will take place after January 18, 2023; and appropriate letter to be crafted by the secretary asking their storage cupboard will be vacated by the end of January 2023.
2. Shelly Balme - agree this is an issue that impacts all agricultural operations and should be taken up by District A - therefore, refer to District A for appropriate action.

Treasurer's Report - Robin reported on the distributed financial statements and indicated we are now in a solid financial position thanks mainly to the second installment of the Federal grant money being paid just before Christmas. She reviewed each function and indicated she would be rebuilding the Insurance, Fair and other reserve accounts that had been drawn down to fund the building addition while waiting for the Federal grant money.

Moved George Baird
Second Gord Dickenson
the treasurer's report be accepted as presented. MOTION CARRIED

Secretary's Report - Gerry - gave a verbal update on building addition saying the interior is now complete except for the walk in freezer and George Mairs is working of the exterior access ramp. She included an updated directors list with her report and requested permission to purchase Office 365 for an approximate cost \$109 plus taxes. She indicated the program she uses now to piece together the Fair catalogue is almost 20 years old and no longer has support.

Moved Robin Brett
Second Lynne Pohynayko

The secretary be authorized to purchase Office 365 for her use.

MOTION CARRIED

- Duncan Dabbers Grant - Gerry would like to submit this grant for a lawnmower which we are in desperate need of
- CVRD Report - Due January 15, 2023 - she will strive to get this done and submitted by the weekend
- Wheels on table and chair carts might need to be raised to get over the difference in the floor levels between the dining hall and the storage area.

Rentals Report - Rental Calendar for Jan & Feb (subject to change) rentals are returning to near normal.

Maintenance Report - Robin reported on the leaks and the lengths need to find both which were both on the Watson side of the property. One was by the horse field, which was pouring water, and the other by the Youth Hall which was likely dripping water for quite some time. She indicated she had begged for relief from CHID and it had thankfully been receive.

Our appreciation goes to Jim Southwell for his assistance and due diligence in both finding these leaks and in helping to fix them. It was agreed we would treat he and his wife to dinner at the Cobblestone.

New Business

1. Seedy Saturday - Volunteers are needed for the 9th 10th and 11th of March for this terrific event. Please spread the word. George Baird and Gord Dickenson will help with table setup.

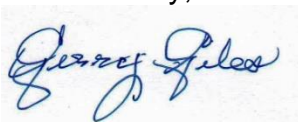
2. Snow removal was discussed at some length. Should we go with a contract or just an on call basis. If on call then we are at the bottom of the list and the contractor comes only after everyone else is finished. Much discussion ensued. The snow removal needed this past December was for a free event the Farmers Institute was sponsoring. Having a contractor come to remove the snow would have likely cost between \$500 - \$1000. Would we not be better off to just cancel events or rentals given the nominal amount of money we charge or make? Should we revisit this conversation again at another meeting?

Contractors are: Ken James, Ken Motherwell, Shawnigan Lake Excavating, HK Excavating.

Next meeting - Directors Meeting February 20, 2023

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Submitted by,



Gerry Giles
Secretary