

Minutes of the Farmers Institute Directors Meeting held on Monday, June 19, 2023 at 7 p.m. in the Youth Hall located at 3565 Watson Avenue, Cobble Hill, BC

Those present: Roger Painter – President, Roy Davies – Vice President, Robin Brett – Treasurer, George Baird, Jayne Shaw, Russell Dann, Bill Wikkerink and Gerry Giles – Secretary.

Apologies: Lynne Pohynayko

Motion: to accept the agenda as distributed. CARRIED

Motion: to accept the May 22, 2023 minutes as distributed. CARRIED

Business from the Director's Minutes:

- Septic system pump out Wednesday - June 21, 2023
- Janitor position – not filled yet but Allan Garside is doing an awesome job filling in and is thanked for filling in.

Correspondence – from the Comox Valley seeking support for the grant they are seeking for the Comox Valley Bee Club to study Bee Pollination on Vancouver Island.

Motion: to write a letter of support for the Comox Valley Bee Club grant application. CARRIED

President's Report – Roger indicated most of his work right now is preparing for the Fair. However, he did work on preparing for the flower show which seemed to be well attended and the organizers were pleased with the event. He will continue to organize grounds cleanup and keep a list of items that need to be done before the Fair.

Treasurer's Report – Robin reported the Balance Sheet shows we have most of the funds set aside for our insurance payment this fall and we also have funds set aside for the Fair floats. There is a reserve account for BC Fairs which has to be spent on specific Fair expenses and also a Fair Technical Reserve account which is money from a grant we received and has to be spent to update technical abilities for the Fair and the Farmers Institute; including equipment, Wi-Fi, and electrical access for the gates. We are also holding substantial deposits for upcoming events in Accounts Receivable. We are still awaiting money from our GST returns now that our T2 is filed.

On the Income Statement money is starting to come in for the Cobble Hill Fair. We have issued a cheque to pay for the fencing and portable toilets, but that is not showing up in the expenses yet, because I am awaiting their invoice. I will make sure I get that invoice and it gets entered in June.

As usual, Hall and Grounds is in a loss position. The meat pie program is doing well, and we still have some product left to sell. The Institute section is also in a loss position which will turn around in September when we get the CVRD grant. The Show and Shine portion of the statement is just starting and won't show any profit until the event takes place in

July. Part of the Show and Shine profit will also come into the catering portion of this statement because we will make more money on the catering, but it is totally attributed to the Show and Shine event.

The only other noteworthy point on the Income Statement is the Centennial Fund – Main Hall Addition. We have filed all the reports and received acknowledgement of their receipt, and we expect \$12,180 which is the remainder of the grant money owed to us.

Motion: to accept the treasurer's report as presented.

CARRIED

Secretary's Report - Gerry said this has been a busy month as not only have rentals increased but the Show & Shine and Fair duties are also ramping up. In addition, she said she thought she had also reported we had successfully applied for and received a technology grant to improve our WiFi access, upgrade our program capability and train volunteers on computers and squares which will be a tremendous help for events like the Show & Shine and the Cobble Hill Fair. This equipment is now being purchased and installed. Some volunteers will be trained in time for the Show & Shine and others will be trained for the Fair.

The Fair Catalogue is coming together, but sponsorship is down this year and it is causing some concern as some of the major sponsors have not come in. We will likely be okay but it does mean we will have to look at ways to cut back on spending. The catalogue will be in print and available for distribution in mid July. She will try to have it online at the beginning of July but not all of the sponsor ads will be in it. There will be both a 4-H horse and poultry show this year which is wonderful.

Gerry reported she is also starting to look at the BC Lottery Corporation's Capital Grant program for the potential of replacing the floor in the Cobble Hill Hall. The floor does qualify for the Capital Grant program, which is a competitive grant process with an intake from June 5th to August 3rd 2023. The Farmers Institute qualifies and the estimate received from George Mairs was approximately \$130,000.00. He has been asked to update the quote. Part of the conditions of this grant application is that we have 50% of the required funds in reserve. Robin and I had tea with a 'friend' a week or so ago and he has pledged a donation of \$5,000 or more toward the floor so it is a start.

The Seniors Lunch program is going well with numbers increasing to over 100 paying customers therefore with volunteers we are now feeding close to 125 at each meal.

We do have some pot pies left from the last effort and I am suggesting we donate those to the CMS Food Bank. Then we can start fresh in October when we begin selling meat pies again after the summer break. This would be approximately 225 pies or the equivalent donation of \$1400.00.

Gay Wise, Leslie Grills, Chuck Felix (Rotary) and I met last week to discuss Rotary's involvement in the Show & Shine and the Cobble Hill Fair. Gay opened by saying they thought they might be able to provide 12 Rotary members for the Fair. We talked about how many people were needed to staff gates and the pancake breakfast and also the FI's need to replace the hall floor. I said we were going to have to capitalize on the amount of money we made from the Farmers Institute events and although we have always given Rotary the opportunity to make the funds from the pancake breakfast, I didn't see how we

could do that this year as those funds are needed to replace the floor. Gay certainly understood this and I think Leslie and Chuck did as well. I also said we did not need the Chuckwagon to do the pancake breakfast. However, they wanted us to use it or at least have it parked front and center to provide publicity for Rotary. Rotary is going to clean the Chuckwagon on June 27th and then use it on July 1st (Canada Day) in Shownigan. After that, they would like to park it beside the kitchen ramp and leave it there until after the Fair. We can use it for the Show & Shine and for the Fair if we want to. I think the solution proposed is a good one and if the Rotary members volunteer for the pancake breakfast at the Show and Shine it will help with that event as well.

Fair Report - Roger reviewed the June 12, 2023 Minutes which were attached to the agenda. He indicated he was pleased with how things appeared to be coming together.

Rentals Report - Rental Calendar June & July (subject to change).

Maintenance Report – Roger indicated Jim and Al had done a lot of volunteer work this past month which we very much appreciate. He also said work was being done to improve the access to the back door of the Youth Hall, the posts in the Baird Barn had been fixed, the new power mower was working well and he would be looking into more chips for the horse field.

Motion: the directors reports be accepted as given.

CARRIED

New Business

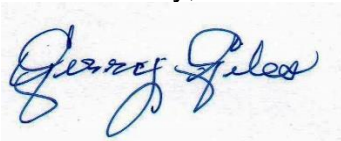
1. Show & Shine – Gerry talked about the need for the FI to capitalize on the amount of funds raised by events staged by the FI like the Show & Shine and Seedy Saturday. All too often we give profit making items away when we should be staffing them and using the profits to replace the floor and items needed by the FI.
2. Date change for the Directors meeting and the Fair meeting due to Roger being out of town on the Fair meeting date. Agreed.

General Membership Meeting - June 26 2023

Next Directors meeting - July 10, 2023

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:48 pm.

Submitted by,



Gerry Giles,
Secretary