

Minutes of the Farmers Institute Directors meeting held on Monday, October 18, 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, Bill Wikkerink and Gerry Giles – Secretary.

The President called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm with acceptance of the agenda by consensus.

Moved/second
the September 19, 2023 minutes be adopted as circulated. MOTION CARRIED

Business from the Director's Minutes:

- In accordance with the minutes Cowichan Exhibition was contacted to see if they had any policies or procedures with respect to dogs at the Exhibition as it pertains to vendors and the answer was, “people were told at the gate to take their dog home and come back and enjoy the Fair.” The executive will develop a further course of action with respect to this and submit it to the Fair committee in February.

Correspondence Received:

- Thank you card from Victoria Master Gardeners for space at the Cobble Hill Fair.
- Thank you card from Matthew Smith & Members of the 4-H Fowl Creatures 4-H Poultry Club for permitting them space at the Fair.

President's Report: – Roger reported the items left to the Farmers Institute by Bill Dumont had been picked up with gratitude to the Dumont family. The volunteer dinner was well attended and was an exceptionally well-run event. Trophy night should perhaps be re-thought as there was not the same sort of atmosphere with that event. We also need to do a re-think about the Fair – revitalizing the vendor village and perhaps having a concert after the Fair to make it more attractive to the food vendors (two meals rather than one). The Rotary trailer will be moved up to the fairgrounds.

Treasurer's Report: – Robin provided the following written report. As we head into the last month of the fiscal year, we are in pretty good shape, perhaps better than we have been in a long time. We have enough to pay the insurance when it comes up for renewal this month, next year's Fair contingency is set aside, we are starting to accumulate funds for the new floor, plus we have a healthy balance in the chequing account, some of which will be transferred to savings to earn interest.

The Cobble Hill Fair has a profit of \$30,011 at the end of September, but bills are still coming in for some prizes that got missed, plus the awards dinner expenses and the cost of engraving the trophies is still to come. But overall, it did very well, especially considering the smaller crowds.

The meat pie program is gearing up for the Fall session which will add more to the \$15,947 profit it has. The hall and grounds repairs are in a deficit position because repairs we do always cost more than we get for rentals, and the Institute portion of the statement at \$7,676 will likely break even by the end of the fiscal year

Catering has made \$4,713 profit and both Seedy Saturday and the Show and Shine also made small profits. The Main Hall flooring received \$5702 in donations and there are no expenses for that program so far. The United Way Technical Upgrade still has \$17,223 to spend on that grant.

The loss on the New Hall Addition is our portion of that cost this year, over and above the Federal grant we received.

We are doing well, no small thanks to the same volunteers who show up time and time again whenever the call goes out for people to clean up the grounds, make meat pies, park cars, cook endless meals, serve food, hang quilts, put up and take down tables, stack chairs, spread tablecloths, and walk the endless miles to keep the fair running smoothly.

David Slade, who joined the Fair committee this year, said that he used to come to the fair every year and had no idea of the complexity and the amount of effort that goes on in the background to organize and run the Fair. This year he got a taste of that work and was in awe and grateful to all the people who have toiled silently in the past.

Its virtually the same with every activity we do, from catering meals to making and selling meat pies, organizing the Cobble Hill Fair, Show and Shine, Seedy Saturday and more. Many people enjoy the result, but few realize the tremendous effort that goes on in the background. *So, to all the people toiling in the background: Thank You! You are the heart and soul of the Farmers Institute.*

Moved/second

the Treasurer's report be accepted as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

Secretary's Report: - Gerry reported on the rental calendars for October and November which are now back to normal. She also indicated the Farmers Institute is being asked to cater to more events. The latest being the Veterans Dinner which is coming up on Thursday, October 26th. The meal will be prepared at the hall then transported over to the Legion to be served. Ten members of the Lions Club will help with serving the meal. It should be noted the Seniors Lunches are going well and the Christmas Lunch tickets will be on sale at the last meal in November. The meal will be our now near world famous New York roast dinner and the gift to the seniors will be a turkey pot pie to take home and cook for their Christmas meal.

Maintenance Report: – the motion sensor in the Stu Armour Hall has been replaced. Seven Costco tents have been delivered. The walk-in freezer door was fixed after the ramp was not removed before someone closed the door... a reminder the walk-in freezer needs to have any ice build up removed. The plumbing under the kitchen sink was replaced which seems to have fixed the leaking situation. Several yards of gravel were laid on the entrance way into the hall grounds at the main gate – this will help with both mud and dust.

New Business:

Halloween – whether we were going to hold a Halloween bonfire was discussed. We are very busy, but also the Open Burning Ban is still in place. Gerry will check to see when the Open Burning Ban will be lifted (Tuesday, October 24th) and whether or not the Cobble Hill Events Society would partner with us to help with the Bonfire. Note: time ran out

Next Directors meeting – November 20, 2023

Annual General meeting – November 27, 2023

Elections must be held for 2024 and up for election are the positions of President; Secretary; plus 4 Directors... the position vacated by the death of Dave Bilkoski, Gord Dickenson, Nellie Poleman, and Bill Wikkerink.

Note: the president appointed the Vice President – Roy Davies to conduct nominations and hold the elections for 2024.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:43 pm

Submitted by

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gerry Giles", is written on a light-colored rectangular background.

Gerry Giles
Secretary