

Minutes of the Farmers Institute Directors meeting held on Monday, October 21, 2024 at 7 p.m. in the Youth Hall located at 3565 Watson Avenue in Cobble Hill.

Those present: Roger Painter – President, Robin Brett – Treasurer, Russell Dann, Betsy Burr, George Baird, Jayne Shaw, Scott Robinson and Gerry Giles – Secretary.

Apologies: Roy Davies – Vice President, Michael St. Clair

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm with the acceptance of the agenda as distributed.

Moved/second
the September 16th Director's meeting minutes be accepted as distributed.

MOTION CARRIED

Business Arising from the Minutes:

The Fundraising Gala planned for October 26 has been cancelled due to lack of organization.

Correspondence:

- Card received from members of the Foul Creatures 4-H Poultry Club thanking the Farmers Institute for putting on the Cobble Hill Fair and letting them attend
- Letter dated September 24, 2024 was received from Gerry Giles resigning as Secretary effective January 31, 2025 or sooner if a replacement is found along with a list of the current volunteer duties she performs was referred to a transition team
- September 30th BC Fairs request for a donation was received and filed
- Letter dated October 18, 2024 from Robin Brett indicating she will not be standing for election as treasurer in November when her term expires was referred to a transition team.

President's Report – Roger said he has mainly been dealing with the void being left by the resignation of Gerry and with Robin not standing for reelection in November along with the floor replacement in December by Mastercraft flooring. The floor is $\frac{3}{4}$ inch maple and we will have the old floor removed; thereby, reducing the trip or stumble transition between the hall and the dining room. The cost to removed the old floor is \$1500.00 so the approval has been given to Mastercraft remove it. Roger said he has looked after getting the fire extinguishers updated and is taking care of getting the fire suppression system installed over the stove/grill. Finally, he said he would appoint a transition committee to work on the transition so the departure of Robin and Gerry could be seamless. He said the Farmers Institute is on solid ground and there is a year to work on stabilizing the situation.

Treasurer's Report – Robin said the things to note on the Balance Sheet are the bank balance is healthy at the end of September, but the yearly insurance bill has come in and been paid in October, so that means the bank balance is roughly \$39,000.00. That balance going into the new fiscal year is roughly what is required just to pay the ordinary bills for the upcoming year 2024-2025.

The money has been set aside for the new floor due to be installed in December, and the insurance money and almost all the needed fair money has been set aside for the next fiscal year's requirements. Some may think that it isn't necessary to set those funds aside quite so early but having had years where the money was spent and it wasn't there when it was needed, I always felt it was wise to set it aside well in advance. The small amounts in the other savings accounts are just there to keep the accounts open.

Noteworthy items on the Income Statement are: • Catering: we've made \$1582.41 so far but much of the food for the October catering was purchased in September but the event doesn't happen until October. • The Cobble Hill Fair made \$25,714.41. There is very little more income and expenses to go. • Hall & Grounds is (\$37,601.63) This represents how much it costs to keep the doors open over and above what we earn in rentals. • Institute was ahead by \$13,098.96 at the end of September because of receipt of the CVRD grant money • The Meat Pie program did very well despite an irregular sale schedule. Meat pies are now being made and sold again and we are trying to have a sale each

month except December when we are making turkey pies for South Cowichan Seniors • Seedy Saturday made only \$571.50 - less this year because vendors were 30% down from previous years. I'm not sure if we were competing with other Seedy Saturday for vendors, but I did notice that a lot of our vendors retired during Covid. • The Show and Shine Car Show made \$1,354.58 and most of that was from Food Sales • United Way Technical Upgrade shows a loss because the income came in during the previous fiscal year and the expenses came out in the current fiscal year.

Every year at the AGM I present a balance budget to the Membership for acceptance. By "balanced", I mean that the income and expenditures equal each other. We are now one month away from the fiscal year end and you can see from the Income Statement how close we are to the income and expenditures balancing. We still have one month to go, but at the end of September we are just \$894.95 difference. I'm not sure if I am getting better at budgeting or it is just dumb luck, but I'm giving myself a pat on the back for good budgeting anyway.

Moved/second

The treasurer's report be accepted as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

Secretary's Report - Gerry said the meat pies will be on sale Saturday, November 2nd and other than that her list of the duties she performs has been distributed with the agenda and she would be pleased to answer any questions anyone has. The Rental Calendars for October and November were distributed with the agenda. Also, several comments had been received via email from those who attended the volunteer/sponsor dinner about how much it was appreciated.

Maintenance Report – Roger reported on the fire suppression system again along with the cost of its installation.

Moved/second

All reports be accepted as given.

MOTION CARRIED

New Business:

- Veterans Dinner – Thursday, October 24th at the Legion – need volunteer help
- Will we hold a Halloween Bonfire. Yes, Gerry to arrange with George, Betsy, Robin and Roger helping along with Dee, Mary and others.
- Seedy Saturday – March 15, 2025 – Betsy to lead and Robin will help with the transition.

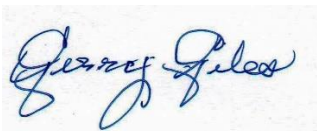
Next Directors meeting – November 18 2024

Annual General Membership meeting – November 25th 2024 – positions up for election:

Vice President: Treasurer: Directors: George Baird, Betsy Burr, Russell Dann, Gord Dickenson, Jayne Shaw.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Submitted by,



Gerry Giles
Secretary