

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Organization: Shawnigan Cobble Hill Famers Institute and Agricultural Society

Date: March 16, 2026

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: Zoom meeting

Present: Roy Davies, Roger Painter, Kathy Pringle, Ann Baty, Gerry Giles, Dee Nelson, Betsy Burr, Jean Zucht, George Baird, Guy Kendall

Absent: Sonja Clarke

Approval of Agenda:

Moved by Jean Zucht

Seconded by Kathy Pringle

Motion carried

Approval of Previous Minutes Once Amended:

Correction with the name. The person who helped with the steps was Al Garside, not John Baty.

Moved by Gerry Giles

Seconded by Betsy Burr

Motion carried

Presidents Report:

- Roy provided updates on the Commons Stage project.
- Brian Farquar reported CVRD has approved the funds. The CVRD will fully fund it with gas tax money, eliminating the need for additional community fundraising. Donations are still welcomed if they come in.
- There has not been a ground-breaking date set yet.
- Mill Bay Power Products is closing, and Roy has purchased a new weed eater at reduced costs since they are closing.
- There are plans to resurface the parking lot in April when the weather conditions improve.

Treasurers Report:

- Roy mentioned that \$2000.00 is put aside in each month report to cover the insurance that costs approximately \$30K a year.

Committee Report:

- Rentals – Ann Baty
- Ann met with Ron Huff at the WIGA Conference. This year they brought some out of province speakers and they were very happy with our technology.
- Roger mentioned that Roy had Pacific Audio Works come in and look at the sound system. It was updated and works well now.

- Ann asked Dee to write a thank you letter to the Dog Club. They donated an AED machine which will be kept in the Stu Armour Building.
- The security system in the Stu Armour Building was having issues with the alarm system when there was a power outage. It still works, but the alarm had to be manually turned off. It doesn't affect security, and it is fixed now.

Maintenance - Guy Kendall

- Guy hung up the AED between the washrooms. It's not in a locked box but should be ok since the building stays locked.
- Guy removed a dangerous limb from a tree on Heigh st. that was hanging down.

Seniors Lunch – Gerry Giles

- The woman who fell at the Senior's lunch is recovering nicely. She does need to replace her glasses.
- Gerry asked Guy if he would look at the strips on the stairs. The bottom 2 strips are not lined up with the others.
- Gerry said the Senior's lunch continues to be a near sold out event. She had 150 guests including 20 volunteers attend the lunch. She publishes the menu to 300 people on Thursday morning. The people have an option to attend the luncheon. The BC Senior Advocate attended the meals once and the MLA attended the meals twice.
- Gerry is concerned that the church group is using the kitchen as there is often several hundred dollar's worth of food in the fridge for the following day's Seniors lunch. It was noted that the church rental of the hall does not include the use of the kitchen.
- Gerry proposed moving the upright fridge and freezer from the storage room to the basement to accommodate a new commercial fridge, which would resolve conflicts with church groups using the kitchen. The group discussed the church's current use of the space, clarifying that while they bring their own coffee maker and supplies, they are using the kitchen for activities like making coffee and heating food in the microwave. Roy emphasized the need to address the church's access to the kitchen space, particularly when it conflicts with other programs like the senior's lunch.
- The group discussed improving the bar area to better accommodate renters who need to fill coffee urns and access other supplies. They agreed to add a microwave, pitcher, and other useful items to create a designated area for renters in the bar space
- There is now a floor mop and bucket in the Bar area.

Seedy Saturday – Betsy Burr

- Betsy, Roger, Scott and Dee are involved in Seedy Saturday. There are 30 vendors in main hall, 19 in the Stu Armor building and 6 outside and 2 vendors in the Baird barn.
- The new owners of the Cobble Hill Deli will be providing wraps and cheese scones. This food is mostly for the vendors, but the public may buy some if they ask.

Show and Shine – George Baird

- Everything is coming along fine, and the first meeting will be in April.

Cobble Hill Fair – Roger Painter

- Betsy is looking into the idea that the Vendors could go into the horse field rather than in the commons. This will be discussed more in April.
- The meeting focused on preparations for an upcoming fair, with Roger reporting that structural preparations like road closures and park-and-ride arrangements were progressing well. The group discussed potential changes to the horse field, including possibly moving vendors there, though concerns about wet conditions were raised and addressed.

Motion to accept committee reports as read

Moved by George

Seconded by Kathy

Motion carried

New Business

- Nellie Pullman passed away. Gerry suggested we give a \$500 donation to the Cowichan District Hospital Foundation. Jim Patterson is matching donations to the hospital making it a \$1000 donation. Gerry will look after donating the money.

A motion by George was brought forward to donate \$500 to the Cowichan District Hospital Foundation.

Seconded by Guy

Motion carried

- Sonja Clarke will be stepping down from being Treasurer due to a busy work schedule.
- Jean Zucht may take over the position, but she would like to speak with Sonja first.
- Roy agreed to arrange an introduction between Jean and Sonja to discuss the treasurer's position further.
- The Cobble Hill Events Society wants to park their trailer on the Farmer's Institute property.

- The board approved a motion to allow the Cobble Hill Event Society to park their trailer on institute grounds for \$50 per month with proof of insurance.

Motion to approve by Gerry

Seconded by Kathy

Motion carried

- Roger discussed addressing noise abatement issues in the Stu Armour Hall affecting the dog club, with Roger offering to investigate acoustic solutions and obtain cost estimates before making any commitments.
- Guy suggested hiring a specialist first to see what can be done.

Motion to adjourned by George

Seconded by Guy

Next meeting will be on April 20, 2026