

Board Meeting held in the Youth Hall – July 20, 2026, at 7:03pm

Attendance: Roy Davies, Gerry Giles, Guy Kendall, George Baird, Ann Baty, Betsy Burr, Dee Nelson, Kathy Pringle, Anna Bonney, Jean Zucht

Absent: Sonja Clarke, Scott Robertson, Bill Winkerink

There were no changes or additions to the agenda as circulated

Motion to approve the agenda

Betsy Burr, 2nd Kathy Pringle carried

The minutes from the May 18th 2026 Zoom Board meeting were not available at the June meeting therefore they were read that the opening at this meeting by Roy Davies and are attached at the end of these minutes.

The notes of the meeting of June 15, 2026 were distributed to the board. There was not a quorum at the June meeting, but the notes should be accepted by the board as a record of the meeting.

Moved Gerry 2nd George carried.

Presidents report – Roy Davies

- The work to remove some trees and bushes has started. There is a lot more open space now.

Treasurers report – Sonja Clarke

- Jean Zucht will be meeting with Sonja on Wednesday. Jean will start taking over as the treasurer.
- Motion to add Jean Zucht to signing authority for the bank account. Roger and Sonja will be removed from the bank account.

Motion to accept the change in signing authorities at the bank.

Kathy, 2nd Guy

All in favor, none opposed. Carried

Committee \ rental report – Ann Baty

- Starting in June, the church went to hall rental on alternate Sundays rather than every Sunday. This will affect the rental income, as they will pay \$3500 a month rather than \$7000.00 so this will affect the budget.

- The church asked to use the hall two Saturdays a month. Since we couldn't accommodate this due to weddings and other weekend rentals, they will rent from somewhere else on Saturdays.

Maintenance – Guy Kendall

- A new janitor was hired, so Guy doesn't have to fill that slot anymore.
- Guy did some repairs on the stage.
- Roger spoke about the new janitors, Carl and Ester Holland. They sounded very interested in the part-time work. They used to clean the carpets for the dog group.
- Roger gave a big "thanks" to Guy for filling in the spot until another janitor was found. Roger suggested some compensation for his work but Guy, but Guy suggested putting the money towards a new stage.
- Guy was concerned about an open well that is in the field. Roy said it is a concrete cylinder over top of the well-head so it is not a safety concern. The well is the original well for the Farmer's Institute, but it isn't used anymore and it is still owned by the Farmer's Institute. Gerry said she has the original paperwork on the well.

Gerry Giles – Seniors Lunch Program

- The Senior's Lunch Program is still very successful. It brings in about 130 -140 guests and 20 volunteers.
- The Timber Framers have rented the hall for Friday, Saturday and Sunday on the last weekend in July; therefore, Gerry cancelled the seniors lunch program for the 27th due to the event and a concert being held in the afternoon.
- The seniors lunch will be back at the hall on September 14. The first meal served in September will be spareribs, which is a popular lunch and always sold out.

Betsy Burr

- Seedy Saturday
- People will start getting serious in September. A 'Save the Date' email will go out in November, and registration starts in January 2027.

George Baird

- There was a very good turnout for the Show and Shine. There were about 100 cars and more along Watson Avenue and Fisher Road. George paid \$300 for 2 bills one for himself and one for Dave Knott.
- There were no complaints; only positive comments.
- Next year's Show and Shine will be on July 17th 2027.

- George suggested taking down the 2 Fir trees by the Cobblestone. Roy agreed that something needs to be done.
- Gerry sent a 'thank you' to everyone who helped at the pancake breakfast and lunch at the Show & Shine. She wanted to extend her 'thanks' also to Guy and Roger for showing up and especially to Guy who came back and helped in the afternoon.
- Bill Gagnon donated a grill to the Senior's Lunch Group so it can be used next year's event it is also perfect to cook the eggs at the Fair.

Roger Painter – Fair

- The Fair planning is going very well. We are ahead of everything.
- Danielle is working with Scott getting volunteers.
- Social media is working very well.
- We have sheep dog demos this year, Blue Dragons, and mini horses. They will go into the field.
- We will divide the 3 events into smaller groups at different times.
- We have around 60 vendors.
- A work party will be in 2 weeks to clean up the tree and field.
- St John's school will be running the buses this year instead of Kerry Park.
- David Slade put together some water spray stations to help cool people off.
- The catalogue is online as well as at Thrifty's and Top Shelf.
- Gerry said the volunteer roster for the pancake breakfast is full as is the luncheon. Everything is fully staff and ready to go.
- The Woman's Institute is **considering** an afternoon tea.
- Betsy suggested that a sign go on the road telling people about the lunch and afternoon tea.

Motion to accept all reports.

Betsy, 2nd Kathy

None opposed, passed.

Old Business

- Stage repair
- Touched bases on the trees
- Last meeting there was some talk about bursaries
- Ann will sit on the committee's criteria. The student has to be eligible, and the bursary needs to be used within 2 years.
- Gerry suggested the bursary stay in South Cowichan.

- Roy suggested the hot dog sales could be designated as a bursary. A sign can be put up by the hot dog sales at to where the money is going.
- Kathy has a motion for an annual \$500 bursary for Kelsey grad seeking the Agricultural Field.
- Gerry would like to move to amendment to \$1000.
- Roy suggested saying 'allocate' \$1000 towards a bursary with Ann and her committee and they will come back with criteria.
- Motion to put \$1000 towards a bursary – details to come.
- Motion carries

Membership meeting / Community meeting

Gerry

- Roger and Gerry are having a membership meeting / community meeting on July 29th. Kelsey Laytham, the emergency manager and Todd with the CVRD will be putting on a presentation on Emergency preparedness and fire safety.
- Scott and Emily have sent this notice out on social media also. Gerry has had several responses to this free event. The Seniors lunch will supply coffee and asked if the Farmer's Institute will pay for the cookies.

Motion to put forward \$100 towards cookies

Kathy, 2nd George

Carried

New Business

- The old sign on the property is starting to deteriorate.
- Roy has someone that will come and look at it. Guy said he will remove it.
- The Dreamers and Weavers will be at the hall after the church service. Guy will bring out some chairs for them.

Next Meeting – September 21, 2026

No meeting in August.

Meeting adjourned 8:06 pm

*Minutes of the May 18th 2026 Farmers Institute Board of Directors meeting held by Zoom.
The meeting was called to order by Roy at 7 p.m.*

A motion was made to approve the agenda, and it was carried

*A motion to approve the minutes from the April meeting was made with the correction of
trees, not grass being trimmed.*

The correction was made and the motion was carried.

The following reports were made at the May meeting.

- *Roy reported that the Common opening was scheduled for July 9 with WIFI extension plan and potential CVRD funding for the cost.*
- *Sonja's treasure report showed April revenue \$7325.91 with expenses of \$10,191 resulting in a negative balance for the month of \$865.00. This was mostly due to the cost of the Fair preparation. Motion to accept the treasurer's report was made and carried.*
- *Community reports and rentals – Ann reported the renter information updates. Ann clarified that the kitchen rental is only used for outside renters but not for food items brought in.*
- *Maintenance Guy reported the updates on maintenance activities including the successful craft Fair. South Island Mechanicals did a heating inspection and found everything in good condition*
- *It was discussed finding a new janitor since Al leave due to health issues is extended. Guy, Roger and others are temporarily covering the responsibilities.*
- *Gerry reported the seniors lunch continues to be sold out with strong volunteer support, particularly from the kitchen team. The meals are provided for \$8.00 with additional donations accepted based on participants' ability to pay. The program generates additional revenue through catering services like May market events. However, Gerry noted they can no longer afford to do catering work due to having to pay for kitchen rental. It significantly reduces their profit. Request from Gerry was to use the kitchen without being charged, which Jean noted to be formalized as a proposal for the Board to consider a vote on. The request was to move this item to new business.*
- *Betsy reported that Seedy Saturday was complete for this year and planning for next year is now in progress.*
- *Scott reported on social media and discussed social media efforts and proposed possibly to use to support fundraising for the senior lunch program.*
- *George said the Show and Shine for 2026 is going well.*

- *Roger provided update on the Fair. There is progress on the sponsorship and working on the catalogue. There is a challenge with bus transportation due to the insurance issues at Kerry Park.*
- *A motion was made to have a page in the catalogue highlighting the contributions and support of the late Nellie Pullman. The motion was carried. A motion to accept reports presented was carried.*
- *Old Business - trees are scheduled for July 7.*
- *New Business – stage repairs. Discussed needing repairs to the stage with Roger and Guy proposing a temporary fix involving replacing plywood and painting for approximately \$900. While a permanent solution would cost around \$10,000. The stage needs repairs before upcoming events, including Francis Kelsey's grad in June and Highland dancers in August. A motion was made to have a temporary fix and volunteers from the grad parents and church offerings to help with the work. Motion was carried.*
- *There was a discussion about the South Cowichan Senior Society request not pay rent for the use of the kitchen. The seniors lunch program currently does not pay rent for use of the hall or kitchen. Other rental groups are charged for hall and kitchen use. Discussion also covered proper protocols for kitchen rentals, which the rental group should be responsible for kitchen rental rather than the individual caterers.*
- *The conversation ended with Gerry withdrawing her request for the exemption meaning the fees will be continued to be charged for the seniors lunch program.*

Moved by Gerry, 2nd, Kathy the minutes be accepted as read. Carried. The meeting was adjourned.