

Minutes of the General Membership meeting held on July 22, 2019 at 7 p.m. in the Cobble Hill Hall located at 3550 Watson Avenue in Cobble Hill.

Those present: Roger Painter - Vice President, Robin Brett - Treasurer, Blair Herbert, Bill Dumont, Michael Wilson, Lavonne Van Der Meulen, Linda Bilkoski, Peter Edgar, Joyce Behnsen, Nellie Poelman, Allan Garside, Heather Dickenson, Gord Dickenson, Irene Evans, Shirley Cooke, Dawn Smiley, Dorylee Robson and Gerry Giles - Secretary.

Apologies: George Robbins - President, John English

The meeting was called to order by Roger Painter who was chair in the absence of our President. Roger reviewed all of the positive contributions made by the directors and by the membership and indicated in any organization there may be differences from time to time but we all need to respect we are here to do our best for the Farmers Institute and the community we serve.

He then asked for a review of the minutes of May 27, 2019. The secretary indicated the minutes had been emailed to all of the members and that if anyone wanted the minutes read she would be happy to do so otherwise a motion to adopt them as circulated is in order. She also noted that the minutes were now available on our website for anyone who did not have access to email and that she would provide the address to the website so people could go to the library and look the minutes up.

Moved           Laureen Van Der Meulen  
Second         Allan Garside  
the minutes of May 27 2019 be adopted as circulated.           MOTION CARRIED

The Minutes of the June and July Director's meeting for information only and the Secretary indicated most of the business from those minutes would be covered during the meeting. She again indicated that in addition to emailing the minutes to all members these minutes are now posted on our website for those who don't have access to email.

Roger Painter read the President's Report as submitted by George Robbins, which is attached at the end of these minutes.

The Treasurer's Report was provided by Robin Brett who reviewed the financial position of the Farmers Institute and indicated reserve funds had been set up for specific items funded through grants or items like the Cobble Hill Fair. Robin indicated the financial statements had been sent out with the agenda and that the Farmers Institute is in a solid financial position.

A Rental Report was provided by Gerry Giles who indicated rentals were up about \$2,000 over last year at this time and that the halls remain quite busy. A wedding was held in the main hall this past weekend and a family reunion will be held this coming weekend. She indicated the rent for a 3 day event had been increased to \$900 from \$600 due to the potential damage that could be done to the hall in three days.

Bill Dumont provided his Maintenance Report which included the work done to modernize the washrooms and taking care of the danger trees on the property. He indicated two successful clean up events for the Fair have been held. Also that a screen has been ordered for movie nights and that a light bar is being costed to better enable live entertainment. He said that pony rides have been arranged for the Fair and that good metal card tables have been acquired from the Shawnigan Community Centre.

The Fair Steering Committee Report was provided by Blair Herbert who reviewed the two sets of steering committee minutes. He indicated planning for the Fair was advancing well and the next meeting will be held on July 27th. Blair also reported on the proposed KIDS ZONE which is a new addition to this year's fair and something we think will be a good attraction for little people. These minutes are also posted on the website.

Questions about Ribbon costs, using Roundup on the horse field and whether volunteers would be turned away were asked and answered. There was also a comment made on the proposed 'Volunteer of the Year Award' after which it was

Moved        Heather Dickenson  
Second      Dorylee Robson

the directors reports be accepted as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

As there were no items of new business a motion to adjourn was made at 7:59 p.m.

Submitted by,



Gerry Giles, Secretary

#### President's Report - George Robbins

This is a very busy time of year for SCHFIAS.

In the past 60 days, directors had 2 SCHFIAS director meetings, participated in three Fair meetings, coordinated and participated in 2 grounds clean-up work parties and attended a District 'A' Farmers Institute meeting.

#### Highlights:

-Fair Catalogue completed and online in June. Hard cover distribution underway. Ad sales/sponsorship revenue went well. Behind the scenes, huge kudo's to Gerry Giles for coordinating advertiser solicitation, production layout, billing, printing and distribution.

-Fair committee is doing a great job targeting what needs to be done, getting solutions. After each meeting, they report to the Directors, identify where they are, next steps to get us to a successful Fair Day. Behind the scenes, co -chairs Blair Herbert/Gerry Giles and the Fair committee are working tirelessly on all the activities that make August 22<sup>nd</sup> Fair Day come together. All is going well.

-Successful \$ 6,600 funding application to the Duncan Dabbers Bingo for SCHFIAS. This 11 page application happened in January 2019. My thanks go to Roy Davies and Roger Painter for suggesting this grant application be submitted, to Gerry Giles for creating and submitting it and to Robin Brett who will ensure the funds received are spent within the confines of the grant application. These are four of your many silent SCHFIAS heroes. The current plan is to use the money to improve drainage on the horse field.

-Big TY to our maintenance leader Bill Dumont. Bill is ongoing, on top of what needs to be done at our buildings and directs the charge as to getting the grounds work done. This month two work parties in anticipation of the Fair. We had great participation from 4H parents & their 4H family members. Ongoing, Bill brings to our attention important planning issues for August 22<sup>nd</sup> and thoughts for future Farmer's Institute activities.

-Great news...our New Generations grant application for \$ 24,795 for a movie screen for the Hall was approved. Installation is planned for this Fall.

-The purpose of the District 'A' Farmers Institute meeting on June 17<sup>th</sup>, in Nanoose, was to create push back to the BC Government and the Minister of Agriculture on the implication/down grading of ALR property owner rights from the recently enacted Bill 15 and Bill 52. 60+ people (farmers, media, politicians) participated in the 4 hour meeting. The July 2019 Country Life magazine has a good article about the District 'A' meeting and a second article about Bill 15 & 52. Based on pressure, current feedback, the Minister of Agriculture has indicated an interest in re-visiting this legislation.