

Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies
Board Meeting
Tuesday March 17th, 2020



Present: Valerie Allen, Carol Cann, Randy Creighton, Heather Dillon, Beth Howell-Vervaecke, Rodger Lyster, Grace Mullen, Linda Murray, Liz O’Gorman-Smit, Heather Owens, Wayne Pfeffer, Zach Prescott, Leonard Riopel, Bart Scherpenzeel, Brian Slaughter, Glen Syme, Brenda Tipping, and Doug Yeo

Staff: Vince Brennan, Kathryn Lambert

Minutes

1. Call to Order at 7:30 pm
2. Welcome/Introductory Comments – Brian Slaughter
3. Roll Call –
 - 1) Date of your District Spring meeting and location and AGM if confirmed
 - 2) Date and location of your upcoming Judging School(s)
4. Appointment of Action Sheet Recorder - :Liz O’Gorman-Smit
5. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Brenda Tipping to approve agenda as presented on the screen
Seconded by Glen Syme
Carried
6. Declaration of Conflict of Interest - none
7. Approval of Feb 12 & 15, 2020 Minutes

Motion by Linda Murray to approve minutes as circulated
Seconded by Rodger Lyster
Carried
8. Business arising from the Minutes - none
9. Review Action Sheet – Vince
10. Questions from the Orientation after reviewing the PowerPoint again
 - none
11. Follow up from Board Evaluation – Beth Howell-Vervaecke
Thinking on what our topics are from the Evaluation – send your top 3 to Beth
12. Goals and Strategic plan for 2020

- Communication to be the theme of our Strategic Plan priorities this year
- Brenda likes that lens of Communication to look at priorities
- Mechanism for developing communication i.e. Competitions

13. Any Board Correspondence Received

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14. Committee Reports

Motion by Beth Howell-Vervaecke to receive reports

Seconded by Liz O’Gorman-Smit

Carried

Note about “appointed members or non Board members” Committees need to meet and recommend these members to be approved by the Board

Program Committees

First Impressions/Strategic Implementation Program – discussed report

Youth

Motion by Randy Creighton to accept the following people as part of the Ad hoc Youth committee Corine Bateman Alicia MacDonald and Hailey Marsh

Seconded by Leonard Riopel

Carried

- Brenda Tipping will send Bios to the board

Sponsorship – no report

Governance - meeting on March 24

Standing Committees

Finance – no meeting will be meeting before spring meeting

Convention Committees

Ambassador – no report

Auction – report received, no discussion

Speaker/Sessions – discussed report

Registration – no report

Competition

- Competition Cards –

Motion by Leonard Riopel to add a sticker that indicates who the exhibitor say should contact the Ag Society Homecraft representative and District Director contact information and the date and place of District meeting.

Seconded by Carol Cann
Carried

Hospitality - no report

175 Anniversary

Motion by Doug Yeo that the Manager finalize a logo to identify our 175th year and begin using it for all messages this year.

Seconded by Wayne Pfeffer
Carried

Kathryn to price a cost on items for handout for 175th .

Motion by Doug Yeo that the Board entrust the ad hoc 175th Celebrations Committee to finalize the competitions and have everything ready to be distributed at the Spring Meeting for informing the Districts and the Agricultural Societies in the most cost effective manner.

Seconded by Brenda Tipping
Carried

Competitions - Promotional video, photo on fair's age in a creative way

Rodger - New shirts with logo to promote our anniversary for the Directors - to go on agenda for next committee meeting

Judging Panel – haven't met since before Convention nothing to add.

Website – covered in Manager's report

15. Financial report – Vince Brennan

- Review Statements, Balance sheet, Income and Expense, 2020 Budget Profit & Loss – comparing current and 3 years prior

Couple questions about certain category totals – Vince to check on it and send answers to board

Motion by Leonard Riopel to accept financial reports as presented
Seconded by Randy Creighton
Carried

16. Manager's Report

- Didn't think it was possible but have been busier than normal. Emails have increased to at least 75 per day.
- Spent most of a day updating my Outlook address book with new email addresses from recent AssistExpo update
- Spent couple days wrapping up post Convention financial work – Convention bills, Director Expense cheques, refund cheques for Convention volunteers

- Contacting some Ag Societies to get them to update their info in AssistExpo and pay their Membership fees. If they don't get AssistExpo updated, their information will not be in the Directory or Brochure.

Motion by Brenda Tipping that any Agricultural Societies that have not made arrangements to pay their OAAS membership fees by March 20, 2021 will be not be considered a member in good standing and will not be included in the printed "2020 OAAS Agricultural Fairs and Exhibitions Directory" or "Fair Dates Brochure", will be removed from the OAAS website and will not receive any further correspondence or services from the OAAS until their membership is paid in full.

Seconded by Glen Syme

Carried

Motion by Brenda Tipping that board determine a fee that should be applied to any Ag Society that does not pay their motion by Dec 31. Sent to Finance to discuss

Seconded Leonard Riopel.

Carried

- At least one fair has already cancelled, and several have cancelled events in their facilities.
- I am working on a letter to send to Premier and Minister of Agriculture to ask them to ensure that Agricultural Societies are considered in their programs to help business in Ontario. CAFE is in discussions with the Federal Government regarding assistance for Agricultural Societies across Canada.
- Sent a survey to Ag Societies to see how many Passports, Directories and Brochures they need this year. Original idea was to cut back on unnecessary printing costs. With the possibility of sending out material by Canada Post, this will also reduce postage costs.
- Disappointed that some Districts are still not sending me dates and locations for their Spring and AGM meetings and Judging Schools so I can post on our website.
- Had an email from an Ag Society – question about information they had been told at a District meeting regarding the use of single use plastics. I responded that there had been absolutely no discussion by the OAAS on that subject.
- Feel that we need to put the website replacement on hold for the time being with the uncertainty of what is happening at this time and the financial implications.

Motion by Doug Yeo to postpone the search for a new website until the Fall Meeting

Seconded by Beth Howell-Vervaecke

Carried

- We have a meeting lined up with the Ontario Horticultural Society to discuss the use of some of their materials in our updated Agricultural and Horticultural Judging Standards Handbook. We were working with the Ottawa Valley Farm Show to have their Seed Judging School as an accredited OAAS Judging School but unfortunately it has been cancelled.
- Some communication with CAFE around the proposed changes to Livestock Traceability Requirements. No timeline at this time for the new proposals.

17. Convention Administrator Report – moved ahead in the agenda.

- Thank gosh our convention was done a month ago today
- Presenters have sent Kathryn presentations to post on website
- Evaluations – ready to have ready for Spring meeting – just over 100 surveys – will share at meeting
- Vince is wrapping up refunds for volunteers and cancellations
- Next step to review – reservations for 2021 – May 1. Hospitality suites through OAAS
- Vince and Kathryn & executive will review that policy
- Looking for new sponsors & seminar topics – pass to Kathryn

Brian – were people pleased with new app?

Kathryn – not used as much as we hoped – need to increase awareness of it.

Vince – will have Wi-Fi access next year – more use of app.

18. COVID-19

- Spring Board Meeting

Motion by Doug Yeo that the OAAS not hold an in-person meeting on April 3 & 4th, 2020 but will instead hold those meetings by Zoom conference call.

Seconded by Valerie Allen

Carried

Should share with the District that we are changing our meeting and distribution of supplies

- Distribution of supplies

Considering mailing all supplies directly to the Agricultural Societies

- Judging Handbooks

Motion by Wayne Pfeffer that the OAAS will still provide complimentary Homecraft Judging Standards handbooks to anyone that had registered but were unable to attend scheduled Judging schools that was cancelled or delayed due to COVID-19 or District can save until the school is rescheduled..

Seconded by Doug Yeo

Carried

Motion by Beth that we will increase the price of the OAAS Homecraft Judging Standards Handbook to cover the increase in printing and postage costs, effectively immediately.

Seconded by Brenda Tipping

Carried

- Requirements for OAAS Certified & Apprentice Judges Policy

Judges listed on the current “OAAS Certified and Apprentice Judges Lists”, who have not attended an OAAS Judging School in the last 3 (three) years will have *until July 2020* to participate in a Judging School to maintain their certification.

- **Motion** by Wayne Pfeffer that the OAAS modify the “Requirements for OAAS Certified & Apprentice Judges Policy” to update the July 2020 deadline to **December 31, 2021**.

Seconded by Rodger Lyster

Carried

Auction item – one of fairs has a dinner theatre in auction and has been cancelled

Fair has refused to refund the money because they didn't lay out any money.

Don't feel purchaser will want a refund

- Could they provide tickets for next year?
- Shouldn't be OAAS on the hook for the donation.
- How many of this type of items were in the auction?
- We shouldn't be giving refunds for this
- Between the person that issued the tickets and the person that purchased it.

Doug – COVID 19

Staff and provincial directors are the front line. Stay safe and be safe. Find people to help look after your stress.

19. Adjourned

Motioned by Doug Yeo

Next meeting April 3 & 4 via Zoom