



NFA

Northumberland Federation of Agriculture

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting

April 11, 2017, 7:30pm OAFVC in Colborne

Present: Lisa Meeke, Allan Carruthers, Ian Sculthorpe, Paul Burnham, Trissia Mellor, Marty Opsteen, Gord Sharpe, Pat Johnston, Glen Milne, Amy Petherick, Lyle Gallagher, Joe Banbury, Bruce Buttar

1. **Call to Order:** by Allan at 7:30pm
2. **Agenda:** Pat asked that an additional item be added to the agenda in New Business, Signage
3. **Approval of Minutes:** Motion; Paul/Marty..... Mar. minutes approved as circulated. CARRIED
4. **Delegation/Guests:**
5. **Financial Report:** Motion; Pat/Lyle To approve financial report as amended. CARRIED
 - 5.1. Budget was not discussed as Arlene was not there.
6. **Business Arising from the minutes/current issues:**
 - 6.1. Young Farmer's Forum planning update - Amy shared that there was no interest in March for this event as the young farmers had too many meetings to attend. There is a possibility of interest in July or Sept. for a forum and Amy will look into those options. Involve funding was not applied for.
 - 6.2. Northumberland County working group – Allan attended a planning meeting March 31 for the Agriculture Working Group and topics discussed were; working group purpose, committee membership, meeting frequency and reporting, priority topics. Next meeting Apr. 13 @ 7:30, County Headquarters. Paul, Allan, Bruce, Marty, Lisa, Mark Dejong and Allan Cole plan to attend.
 - 6.3. Strategic Planning Workshop report – Pat presented the goals to be ratified by directors. 1) Improve monthly meeting 2) Deal with member/industry issues in a timely manner 3) Lobbying. Engaging politicians at all levels of government. Motion; Pat/Paul..... To adopt the presented goals and action plans for Strategic Plan. CARRIED Heather Candler and/or Karen Fischer of OMAFRA will come to our June or July meeting to finalize our new Strategic Plan.
 - 6.4. Constitution changes –It was decided that constitution change discussion continue online so the final document can be voted on in June.
 - 6.5. Planned breakfast meeting with MP Kim Rudd, April 21st @ Big Apple, 8:30 am An agenda of 3-5 topics is to be circulated to directors prior to meeting. Suggested federal topics were; overtime and minimum wage changes to agriculture workers, infrastructure development, affordable housing, food policy, climate change regulations, fuel tax relief.
7. **Correspondence:**

None
8. **Reports:**
 - 8.1. Allan – Successful breakfast meeting with MPP Lou Rinaldi at the Big Apple April 7th. Nine topics were discussed; MPAC land values and tax increases, Preserving Farmland, Solar Farms on class 1-3 land, Hydro rates, Agri-Recovery, Natural Gas expansion, High Speed internet delivery, Rural infrastructure roads, Farm 911 project. Although the list of topics was long all felt the meeting went very well and farmer's perspective was delivered with some solutions offered. A thank you letter should be sent to Lou as well as an automatic one to Kim Rudd after that meeting.
 - 8.2. Bruce Buttar, Zone Director – Was asked to do a presentation in Madoc regarding issues with rural school closures to a crowd of 150. Happy to see OFA supports the concerns of the community. PAC meeting was canceled. Keith Currie continues to meet with elected officials in the Ontario government to keep agriculture issues on the agenda.
 - 8.3. Resi Walt MSR –has a conflict and was unable to attend
 - 8.4. Gene, PAC member – absent
 - 8.5. Trissia Mellor, County Rep. –
 - Participated in “Bringing Workers the Farm” webinar by the Conference Board of Canada, re the importance of temporary foreign workers in Canadian Ag.
 - Hosted OMAFRA's Rural Policy staff at the Venture Centre. Included tour and presentation explaining how it came to exist, presentations by First Ontario Shrimp, Farmers Feed the World program coordinator, Cramahe Township Mayor, and Executive Director of Ontario East Economic Development Commission regarding policies impacting Eastern Ontario.

- 2017-18 Farm Gate Guide preview. Distribution starts with 25,000 copies of the June Issue of Watershed Magazine
- To celebrate Canada's 150th and to showcase our local agriculture heritage, Northumberland County is putting together a book about 1st, 2nd, 3rd generation immigrants to Northumberland. It will tell their stories and have photos of an artifact that they brought from their home country. Check out the website, Our150stories.ca

9. **New and Other Business:**

- 9.1. Pat inquired if there were still some large signs at Burnham's that have been used in the past to promote agriculture. Wondering if one could be used on the side of the OAFVC. Trissia will ask if that is a possibility.
 - 9.2. Glen asked to print agenda on back of financial for meetings. **MOTION Glen/Lyle..... to send financials electronically to directors. CARRIED**
 - 9.3. Joe Banbury wanted to make mention of the bright spot in agriculture with the cap and trade carbon policy, where pastures and woodlots could have great opportunities
10. **Next Meeting:** Next meeting, June.13 at 7:30 pm Snack duty assigned to Arlene Dorland
11. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned @ 9:15pm