

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting

Jul. 11, 2017 OAFVC Colborne, 7:30pm

Present: Allan Carruthers, Marty Opsteen, Lisa Meekes, Gene Brahaney, Pat Johnston, Ashley Greenly, Ian Sculthorpe, Paul Burnham, Marvin McComb, Terry Linton, Gord Sharpe, Resi Walt, Amy Petherick, Doug Gray, Bruce Buttar, Trissia Mellor, Heather Candler, Lyle Gallagher, Sid Atkinson

1. **Call to Order:** by Allan Carruthers at 7:34
2. **Agenda:** Motion; Ashley/Sid.....agenda accepted as circulated. CARRIED
3. **Delegation/Guests:** Heather Candler from OMAFRA spoke to us for a follow up to the completed strategic plan we did. She suggested a good way to implement is to pull the goals into the agenda so as to keep on track. She praised us for the great job we are doing and to keep the members engaged as we stated was a priority to us.
4. **Approval of Minutes:** Motion; Doug/Pat.....June minutes approved as circulated. CARRIED
5. **Financial Report:** Motion; Terry/Marty.....To approve financial statement as circulated. CARRIED
6. Business Arising from the minutes/current issues:
 - 6.1. Amy reported the Young Farmer's Forum consisted of Justin Dorland, Heather Greenly, Jen Cheer, Ashley Greenly and Amy Petherick. They have tentatively planned for the event to happen Sept. 16 or 23 or 30th, running from 10:00 – 3:00. Target participants are farmers under 40. Looking for venues that have three rooms, two for sessions and one for childcare centrally located in the county. Doug Gray suggested new farmers need this resource as well. For now we are going to stick with the under 40 group as they don't know other young farmers in the County and it is the same criteria as the fall provincial forum. Advertising will be done via social media and Trissia suggested radio may be a good option to get the word out as well.
 - 6.2. Voting via email – A subcommittee was formed to develop policy ideas on rules to follow when there is a need to vote via email on urgent matters. Motion; Amy/Doug..... that an email voting policy committee be formed. CARRIED
Volunteers for this committee are Amy, Doug & Ashley.
 - 6.3. Municipal Farm Bus Tour continues to be planned for August 11. Invitations have been sent and a bus company has been contacted. Pick up location at OAFVC arrangements have been made. Suggestion that Dan Fergusson be asked to be bus speaker to engage the group of local farm landmarks and history. Signup sheet went around at the meeting for those wishing to participate in the day.
 - 6.4. AGM date set for October 27 Warkworth Gathering Place, United Church Hall. Ideas for speakers to book were tossed around. Trissia suggested Joe Hayes come talk about his fledgling black current business in Brighton. A fun theme for the AGM was revisited and Dan Needles name came up. Trissia volunteered to contact him. Motion; Paul/Terry....that we investigate hiring Dan Needles to the AGM. CARRIED
7. Correspondence:
 - 7.1. Mud on roads- farmers are responsible to clean up any debris they put on the roads and each municipality has their own policies concerning this. The wet spring has made this a hot topic so an awareness word needs to be sent out. Good topic for next newsletter.
 - 7.2. Incubation, Acceleration & Commercialization Agri-Food Collaborative seeking our support. They are a group to increase support for the commercialization of new ideas, and establish a more resilient future for the farming and food sector. Letters of support and questions will be received by the Greenbelt Fund. Motion; Amy/Gene.....that we defer to next month to discuss. CARRIED More info to be acquired.
8. Reports:
 - 8.1. Allan- nothing to report
 - 8.2. Bruce Buttar – We congratulated Bruce on his acclimation for this term of #12 Zone director. He said this will be his last term and is looking for a replacement to coach for an easy transition to the following term.
Five zones have active elections happening this term.
Hope township solar project has some questions to the approval process of solar in Ontario. Keith Curie and Jeff Leal have been contacted about this project which a group of locals believe the land class that the project has been approved for is not following guidelines. Not much can be done once project has been approved. 69 projects are in the que to be approved at this time.

This year's annual summer tour by directors in August is being hosted by Brant County. **Motion; Amy/Paul..... that Northumberland continue to pursue hosting the OFA summer tour event for 2018. CARRIED**

- 8.3. Resi Walt MSR- Resi said the FARM 911 project made the cover of the Farmers Forum Paper. The launch will be held at the Hastings Plowing Match in Aug. Allan arranged a photo opp with an emergency vehicle and tractor that will be used for the new web site.

Signup sheet was passed around to volunteer for a shift at the plowing match. Resi will call you to remind you of the shift you signed up for.

- 8.4. Gene, PAC member- Well attended meeting in Markham June 22. OMAFRA agriculture organizational specialist Helen Scutt was the facilitator for working on PAC governance structure to determine and effective and efficient operation model for PAC. Michael Keegan and John Snobelen gave an effective presentation on how to best communicate your message to politicians.
- 8.5. Trissia Mellor, County Rep- The province is hosting public consultations regarding planned changes to the definition and land uses of **Natural Heritage System and Agriculture System**. Trissia has received one invitation to attend and will be attending to offer input. Members should reach-out to the OFA and OMAFRA to see how they might be invited to participate. A public open house will take place from 6pm to 9pm at the Holiday Inn Waterfront in Peterborough on September 12th.

An **Agriculture Community of Practice teleconference** meeting is scheduled for Monday August 21st from 10am – Noon. These “lunch and learn” teleconferences/webinars are hosted jointly by OMAFRA’s Ryan Deska, and OFA’s Danielle Collins.

OAFVC to be featured in the Metro Daily newspaper on August 24th. Ontario Agriculture Ec Dev Forum has been renamed *In Our Fields: Exploring Economic Development Opportunities, Land Use Planning Considerations, and Promising Practices to Support Agriculture*, after a two year break she’s back on the planning committee and will advise the board of the event agenda and date, and encourages the board to attend the event.

Northumberland County has launched the **2017-18 Farm Fresh Destinations** Guide. This publication features farms selling local food directly to the consumer, this year including opportunities to support local beverage makers in addition to the traditional categories of Fruit & Vegetables, Sweets, and Proteins. Copies are available at Northumberland County’s municipal offices, and are primarily distributed in this Summer’s issue of Watershed magazine. Copies of the publication were also distributed at the meeting.

Northumberland County CAO Jennifer Moore and Director of Economic Development Dan Borowec will be presenting a **policy paper at the Rural Ontario Municipal Association conference** proposing a subtle but important shift in the province’s land use policy which would enhance opportunities for Urban Farming across Ontario.

Northumberland County is exploring an opportunity to partner with **Farms @ Work** to deliver some professional development for individuals interested in starting to farm. This project is still in the early stages details will follow.

In late May, Trissia was invited to attend a **“Farms Forever” policy discussion** in Newmarket. The event had approximately 25 attendees including industry representation, economic development staff, and not-for-profits serving the industry. A small blurb about the policy, and a link, are below: *The Ontario government recognizes that our agri-food sector is the foundation of our province - and it seems certain to play a critical role in our future. In the Premier's mandate letter to Jeff Leal, Minister of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs, the ministry was instructed to move forward with Farms Forever. The initiative will help inform future policy development to help support a strong and innovative agri-food sector. This support includes investing in agricultural research and programs to support innovation in the sector. The four policy objectives of Farms Forever are the following: 1. Help preserve the productive capacity of agricultural land close to major urban centres. 2. Support the local sourcing of food. 3. Strengthen Ontario's agri-food sector. 4. Support young farmers and new entrants*

- 8.6. Strategic Goals and Actions- covered with delegate Heather Candler

9. New and Other Business:

Scholarship deadline approaching. No applications submitted at this time.

10. Next Meeting: Aug. 8 Snack duty is assigned to Marvin McComb

11. Adjournment: Pat 9:35 pm

Snack duty for tonight Pat Johnston