

**Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies
Zoom Board Meeting
Tuesday, May 19, 2020**



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

Staff: Vince Brennan, Kathryn Lambert

Absent: Brenda Tipping

Guests: Mike Dupuis

Zoom meeting: 7:30 pm

MINUTES

1. Call to Order
2. Welcome/Introductory Comments – Brian Slaughter
Welcome to another Zoom meeting – finally getting some warm weather – can put away winter coats
3. Roll Call – tell us something good in your District
4. Appointment of Action Sheet Recorder – Liz O’Gorman-Smit
5. Approval of Agenda
Motion by Wayne Pfeffer to approve agenda as presented
Seconded by Linda Murray
Carried
6. Declaration of Conflict of Interest
7. A reminder of the Code of Conduct signed
8. Approval of April 3 & 4, 2020 Meeting Minutes
Motion by Doug Yeo to approve minutes as presented
Seconded by Valerie Allen
Carried
9. Any Business from the minutes?
10. Review Action Sheet
11. Correspondence Received
Shawn LaPalm – re Board Governance, Policies, procedures, risk management for Ag Societies
12. Committee Reports
Motion by Rodger Lyster to approve Committee Reports as received.
Seconded by Leonard Riopel
Carried

Program Committees

First Impressions/Strategic Implementation Program – no report sent

- Hosted a training session – some Provincial Directors attended – sent an email to Provincial Directors - check out the first session on Google Drive. Sent a letter to fairs to see when they would like to take this course

Youth – report sent out

- Rough First draft of what we have been working on. Committee split into 3 Mentorship, Policy development and Recruitment,
- Rough draft of what an Ag Society could use at ground level to develop their programs
Doug – should add a policy statement – these are more procedures

Standing Committees

Finance - no report received

Sponsorship - no report received

Had interest from Andrew Iceton – still interested – do we move forward looking for other sponsors?

Motion by Doug Yeo to rescind the Adhoc Sponsorship committee

Seconded by Beth Howell-Vervaecke

Carried

Motion by Doug Yeo to create a Sponsorship committee as a Standing Committee for the July meeting.

Seconded by Liz O’Gorman-Smit

Carried

If Andrew is still interested – have him submit a bio.

Governance – report sent out

1. AODA

Discussion: Whether the OAAS be doing the training or should the Agricultural Societies take the training themselves locally

Recommendation: The Governance Committee recommends a workshop offered at Convention.

Randy – the course that Linda refers to is Ontario human rights. The government course is more detailed. Secretary doesn’t have to keep the certificate on file.

Randy will provide a letter with links and information to Vince to sent to Ag Societies. Include some background info on AODA and how it affects Ag Societies and Fairs.

Linda – please share the link.

Motion by Randy Creighton that OAAS supply the resources and promotion to the agricultural societies so they can take the training themselves.

Seconded by Valerie Allen

Carried

Motion by Randy Creighton that the Governance Committee encourages all Provincial Directors to take the training by July 1, 2020.

Seconded by Carol Cann

Carried

The same letter will be sent to Provincial Directors

2. Emergency Leadership Plan

The Governance committee reviewed the two OAAS Emergency Leadership Plan information documents. A copy will be kept by 1 Manager, 2 OAAS President, and three the chair of the Governance Committee. A discussion that it should be HR Committee Chairman rather than Chair of Governance Committee.

3. Board Size

The Governance committee started a discussion on this and will continue at next mtg.

4. District Director: Roles and Responsibilities

The Governance Committee has spent a lot of time discussing this and will continue to discuss it at the next meeting.

Convention Committees

Ambassador – no report received

There is not CNE so that changes things – meeting next Thursday

Auction - no report received

Speaker/Sessions – no report received – meeting next week. Have received applications for ad-hoc members

Registration – no report received -

Competition – no report received

Meeting monthly – working through each document and refreshing the rules

Hospitality – no report received

Ad-hoc Committees

175th Anniversary – meeting on Thursday – continuing the areas we have been working on shirts, displays, etc.

Judging Panel - no report

13. Financial report – Vince Brennan

Balance Sheet

Spreadsheet - working on best-case/worst-case scenario for Finance Meeting

- Review Statements, Balance sheet, Income and Expense, 2020 Budget
Motion by Leonard Riopel to approve Financial Reports as presented
Seconded by Glen Syme
Carried

14. Board Goals and Strategic plan for 2020

- Report from Beth Howell-Vervaecke

Pillars – then tasks

Tasks from previous years that are incomplete– what do we do with them? Put on the backburner, move them forward, remove them, mark them complete? Looking for direction

Linda – add incompleted items from last year in a different colour so we can follow them

February 2021 – time to create a new Strategic Plan

Send out to deal with at next meeting

15. Manager's Report

Here are some highlights of my report that I sent to you earlier

- Busy planning our weekly webinars - still have around 150 people attending. All the video call recordings are on our website. Just confirmed Doug Reddick and Rick Berthiaume from OMAFRA for next Wednesday
- Zoom meetings pretty much every day – have had up to 4 or 5 zoom meeting in a day
- Both websites have been updated; the feedback has been very positive. John did not charge us for the update to the Ontario Fairs website – he spent most of a week on it. The update means that I only have to input the Fair date once for each fair instead of 3 times.
- I have been able to attend most of the District spring meetings – I have really enjoyed being part of them. It's not possible or feasible for me to participate in-person meetings in other years, so this has been a new experience and seems to have worked quite well.
- Sent letters to MPP's and working on another set of letters for MPP's MP's going out ASAP. I have had it stressed to me from different levels of government – 1) letters, lots of personalized letters to various levels of government – no bulk "Dear MPP)" letters – they get ignored. And 2) they are looking for facts and figures when you are requesting assistance or other funding. Only 50% of our fairs provided TREIM reports or the information we were looking for. We are going to have to emphasize determining what information we will need in the future and start collecting it yearly.
- Updating the website with fair cancellations regularly - at around 100 cancellations
- Meeting weekly with Tobias Clark from OMAFRA
- Been working on our 2021 budget best case/ worst case??
- Please follow up with your District Executive regarding Vulnerable Sector Checks – they should be contacting their local Police Services as soon as it is deemed safe by the government. We have approximately 20 people that have not completed it. I will send out an updated letter to you to provide to the District Directors to take to the police.
- Three fairs still outstanding
- We need to decide whether or not we will print the 2020 Directories and Brochures.

Motion by Doug Yeo that we cancel printing the 2020 Directories and Brochures

Seconded by Leonard Riopel

Carried

We will ask our sponsors to carry forward sponsorship to next year.

It will save money on printing and shipping.

- Fair Passports? Do we need to send them out?
We offer people a credit towards next year or refund if required.
Hold off on sending out passports – some later fairs may still need them.

We will notify the Agricultural Societies and Districts that the OAAS will not be sending out the Agricultural Society and District packages containing the Directories, Brochures, passports and other supplies.

- Fall Board Meeting – should decide at the next meeting if what format our Fall Meeting will be

16. Convention Administrator Report

- Thank the board for the care package at my door – it helped my recovery

*"The OAAS is committed to providing an environment in which all persons are treated with respect and dignity.
The Designated Harassment Officers are Doug Yeo and Brenda Tipping."*

- OAAA took over the responsibility of booking the suites. Seven hospitality suites, plus corner suites
- Received 11 requests – offered smaller suites to other 4 groups. They have to contact the hotel with their credit card
- Provincial Director got an email with room info – call the hotel with credit card info asap by June 1.
- Ambassador update – webinar last Thursday – Paula Ellis joined the call. CNE will allow any ambassador from 2019 and 2020 to participate in 2021. Don't know if there will be one or two competitions – depends on the number of participants.
- Ambassador Program committee meeting to discuss the Convention Program
- Seminars meeting next week
- Planning on full Convention next February
- Competitions – What will Convention 2021 Competitions look like.
- Most fairs will be cancelled or modified.

Linda – agree that we don't have any Competitions next year. Quilts from Country Heritage for a display. Displays from fairs – ribbons, etc.

Guy Scott has offered to set up at least one room of fair History

Carol – we need to suspend the competitions for 2021.

Motion by Doug Yeo that OAAS cancel the OAAS Competitions for the 2021 Convention

Seconded by Bart Scherpenzeel

Carried

Motion by Beth Howell-Vervaecke that we notify the Agricultural Societies and Districts that the OAAS, to be equitable to all Agricultural Societies that are not holding their traditional Fairs, that the Provincial Competitions will not be held at the 2021 Convention.

Seconded by Linda Murray

Carried

Now Districts can have Zoom Fall Meetings without Competitions.

Adjourned

Next meeting June 16, 2020

#FairsAreResilient