

**Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies
Board Meeting via Zoom
April 9, 2021, at 7:30 pm**



Present: Valerie Allen, Lauren Armstrong, Carol Cann, Randy Creighton, Heather Dillon, Mike Dupuis, Beth Howell-Vervaecke, Andrew Iceton, Grace Mullens, Linda Murray, Liz O’Gorman-Smit, Heather Owens, Leonard Riopel, Angie Robinson, Bart Scherpenzeel, Brian Slaughter, Glen Syme

Staff: Vince Brennan, Kathryn Lambert

Absent: Andrew Taylor

Guests:

Minutes

1. Call to Order at 7:35 pm
2. Welcome/Introductory Comments - Beth Howell-Vervaecke
Welcome everyone to our spring meeting. I want to thank everyone for your participation in our March meeting – it’s valued and encouraged that you speak up and share your opinions. All questions are welcomed and to confirm clarity we want to come out with the same voice at the end. To these committees who are able to meet, I trust you have had time to review the minutes and to prepare for any discussions from our recommendations and motions tonight that would be brought forward. It’s up to all of us to come prepared for these meetings and to be using our time as efficiently as possible.
3. Action sheet recorder – Grace Mullen
4. The role call for this meeting is – One thing happening with Fairs in your District that you would like to share?
5. Approval of Agenda
Motion by Mike Dupuis to approve agenda as presented
Seconded by Randy Creighton
Carried
6. Declaration of Conflict of Interest - none
7. Code of Conduct
8. Approval of Minutes of March 16th, 2021 meeting
Motion by Valerie Allen to approve minutes as presented
Seconded by Linda Murray
Carried
9. Any Business Arising from the minutes?
 - Has every one sent in their spring meeting dates? - most have confirmed.
 - Zoom accounts – send in receipts
 - Auction total
10. Review Action Sheet – Beth Howell-Vervaecke

11. Board Correspondence – Vince Brennan

Letters from Ag Societies thanking for the work by OAAS to get the funding.

12. Committee Reports - motion for received the following committee reports

Motion by Brian Slaughter to receive Committee Reports as reported

Seconded by Liz O’Gorman-Smit

Carried

PROGRAMME COMMITTEES

OAAS Programs

- First Impressions was cancelled in 2020 due to COVID-19
- 3 Fairs took part in Strategic Planning program
- Discussion on moving forward this year with First Impressions and working with Fairs that have gone through the Strategic Planning with OMAFRA
- may be great year to push the program to be ready for when we are able to have fairs. People will tend to look at the Fair Websites to get their “First Impressions”
- Suggestions that this year may be a good time to review all the Fair Websites and give them a “Face Lift”

Motion by Leonard Riopel to have a webinar this Spring focusing on “First Impressions and Web Pages”

Seconded by Mike Dupuis

Carried

Youth Program

- No meeting

STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance:

- No meeting

Human Resources

- No meeting

Nominations

- No meeting

Sponsorship/funding

- No meeting

Governance Committee

- No meeting

CONVENTION COMMITTEES

Ambassador

- discussed pivoting the Ambassador portion at convention as a youth/junior delegate where they will have specific seminars to attend tailored towards their age group which we are thinking to be 15/16-25. We will need to determine liability (i.e will chaperones be needed) and further details as we move forward with our planning but we think that this will open the doors to have more youth involved in OAAS and even with their own fairs.
- Further details to come but we believe this is the best way to go as it's hard to say how many ambassadors we will have moving into this year.

*“The OAAS is committed to providing an environment in which all persons are treated with respect and dignity.
The Designated Harassment Officers are Brian Slaughter and Andrew Icton.”*

Auction Committee:

- No meeting and/or report

Speakers/Sessions

- Review from 2021 convention speakers to have repeat
- Find possible speakers/ topics from other conferences attended
- Ideas to think about offering for 2022 convention
- Ad Hoc committee members

Motion by Glen Syme to accept Pat Howell-Blackmore and Rebecca Lyster as ad hoc members on speakers & seminars committee

Seconded by Grace Mullen

Carried

Registration

- No meeting

Convention Competitions

- Investigating adding Maple Syrup and Honey to the competitions held at Convention to add an agricultural component

Hospitality

- No meeting

AD HOC COMMITTEES

Judging Panel:

- No meeting

175th Anniversary

- No meeting

13. Manager updates – Vince Brennan see Manager’s report for further information

- Finance statements / updates

Motion by Grace Mullen to accept financial reports as circulated

Seconded by Glen Syme

Carried

- Attended TSSA Amusement Devices Advisory Council meeting this week
- Attending CAFE Recovery Working Group meeting this week
- Attended Grant Application Process webinar with Minister Lisa MacLeod last week
- “Resilient Funding’ was rejected – most of request was for Strategic Plan
- Met with Eric Lockhart on Friday re Strat Plan
- Met with Michel St. Pierre, AssistExpo on Friday re updates to Directory and Service Member module

- **Updating incorrect Ag Society information in AssistExpo**

I have recently updated the www.ontariofairs.com website with the updated information in AssistExpo. I copied and pasted the information from AssistExpo into each individual Ag Society page so the information on the website is exactly what was input by the Ag Society Contact.

If you have not already, please review my Manager’s Report on the website – I have asked each of you to work with your District to review each Ag Society info on the website and verify that the links for their

website, FB, etc are correct. If you find any issues, please email the Ag Society and provide the specific links that are incorrect or broken, not valid, etc.

The Ag Society MUST login to AssistExpo and update this information – They MUST NOT contact AssistExpo or myself to update the information.

We made it mandatory that all Ag Societies provide information for 3 different contacts – and stipulated that the email addresses and phone numbers must be different. We normally have issues trying to contact some Agricultural Societies each year but this year seemed to be even more difficult. I find it very frustrating that some Agricultural Societies refused to provide the requested information i.e. inputting none@none.com.

There is other information in my report – Questions?

14. Convention Administrator updates – Kathryn Lambert

- May 3rd room reservations open
- Let Kathryn know what room you want
- At spring meeting ask for ideas for seminars and entertainers
- Please read Ambassadors' Committee report – perhaps a youth program since the same ones have been at last two conventions,

15. Strategic plan – not successful in receiving Resilient Communities Funding for this project

- 1st session review info gathered at Convention
- Review Vision and Mission Statement
- Are pillars correct?
- Erik will send a package to everyone in the next week
- **May 18th** – 3 hr session - can we start early? 6:30 pm
- Meet one week later – **May 25th** – 3hr session then 6 or 7 weeks to review his report

16. Board Orientation – Vince Brennan

17. In camera

Motion by Liz O’Gorman-Smit that in light of the support and work that has been done during the last year by the staff and associates that we pay Kathryn Lambert, Vince Brennan, Bev Brennan and Brittany Brennan a bonus.

Seconded by Glen Syme

Carried

18. Next meeting May 18, 6:30 pm Zoom – Strategic Plan 3 hours

19. Adjourn

Motion by Linda Murray to adjourn

20. Social time ice breaker etc - Beth

Board Meeting dates: May 18, May 25 – special Strategic Plan, June 15, July 20, August 17, September 21, October 22 & 23, November 16, December 21, January 18, 2022