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Home of the Binbrook Fair, since 1854... in the Heart of Binbrook.

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**DRAFT MINUTES – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
THURSDAY FEBRUARY 27TH, 2020
7:00 p.m.
BINBROOK AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY**

Call to order – Nik 7:15pm

Attendance

Voting Members: Shirley Allen, Brad Switzer, Stephanie Vigliotta, Aleasha Nimec, Alicia Powell, Andrew Bienhaus, Anna Marie Balog, Brian Lamb, Bryan Ramsay, Chad Roberts, Chris Devereaux, Chris Donaldson, Clint Burrows, Colleen Zimmermann, Dan Loro, Drew Spoelstra, Jenn Watson, Jill Lamb, Joanne Robitaille, Joshua Burrows, Kim Burrows, Kristal Sommer, Larry Martin, Laurel Charbonneau, Melinda Ramsay, Melvin Switzer, Michele Bain, Michelle Young, Nicole Young, Nikolas Oreskovic, Pat Powell, Paul Anderson, Paul Devereaux, Rebecca Bennett, Shannon Wellnitz, Tracy Jolly, Vivian Kinnear, Wilma Switzer, Zeda Stickland

Dignitaries & Special Guests: Heather Dillon (District 6), Pat Butera (Accountant), Laurel Charbonneau (West Niagara)

Office Admin – Karen Small

Introductions & Welcome to Guests

Brenda Johnson – Apologies for not being able to attend. Successful fair in 2019 and everyone loved the rodeo. She is available to help in 2020.

Nik Oreskovic - Presidents Report – Special thanks to all our volunteers, at this time our organization is only as strong as volunteer base. Keeping on top of maintenance, positively moving forward, things are looking good. Definitely had a good fair in 2019. Rodeo was very successful and well received, also made some changes to track to accommodate as such. Like to thank Cliff Stickland for donating rental of one grandstand, which gave us our 5th set, and for all his hard work throughout the year as well, along with everyone who participates on Monday nights and anyone else who helps throughout the year. Thank you to Pat Butera for producing financial statements for tonight, and other good advice. Still exploring kitchen renovation potential, also HVAC system is due for some upgrades and we will be looking into that in the near future. 3 directors have been sent to governance workshop at the convention. Looking for membership support this year in adopting our new constitution. Quick points: short term items: roof on bldg. 5&6 which would complete roofs on buildings; interior of bldg. 3 which took damage due to leaking roof, also looking at possibility of using it as an alternative rental venue; finishing the office entrance now that the sewer extension is complete; thank everyone who supported me and mentored me in my 2 year term as president, challenging times but lots of fun!

Election of Directors for 3year term – report by Chad Roberts

Good evening and thanks for joining us. 6 individuals that are completing their term, Paul, Zeda, Delaney, Melvin, Andy, Dan

Zeda and Melvin are stepping down, big thank you to them as they step down. Maren is also submitting her resignation, so we will be filling that position as well. Mel Ramsay, Brian Lamb and Aleasha Nimec

are interested in stepping in. Michelle Young moves to allow them to stand. Shannon 1st and Jenn 2nd.
Carried

Jenn Watson nominates Shannon Wellnitz.

Aleasha motion to close the floor, 2nd Melvin. Carried

Shannon

Andrew

Paul

Mel

Brian

Dan

Aleasha

7 people standing for 6 3-year terms and 1 2-year term. Vote for the 1 person who should be on a 2-year term that is replacing Maren Nimec.

Shannon will get 2-year term. Vivian 1st, Melvin 2nd to destroy ballots. Carried.

Nik requests someone to nominate Melvin as Honorary director. Pat Powell 1st, Joanne Robitaille 2nd
Carried.

Andy – Regarding Eleanor Spencer: looking for motion to affirm as homecraft president and give her voting rights. Aleasha 1st Shannon Wellnitz 2nd Carried

Revised Constitution

-See appendix 1

-have done extensive work on this project over the last year and a half. Had meetings involving people outside of the board to get input and vision. Had a meeting in April open to all membership to discuss any concerns etc. that needed to be addressed. Thank Larry Martin and Vivian Kinnear for attending along with board members. Concern at that time that P&P are a little weak, as they were. If constitution is adopted, then at the following board meeting we will have a vote to implement policies and procedures. P&P is a living document so things can be amended, and changes as needed and feeling fit. Looking for motion to adopt constitution (appendix 1 attached). 1st Aleasha 2nd Kim Burrows.

-who has signing authority. 3 executive officers, 2nd vp, 1st vp, president. No change from past, but better wording included in revised constitution. P&P will reflect names of the people. Who is doing the financials on a daily basis and for the monthly meetings? Karen (office administrator)

-does the board feel it is prudent to have the 3 people signing cheques also be the same people with 2 people who can make the votes? Those people should be in power of signing authority so in emergency situations things can be taken care of promptly and without a hitch. Drew – no 3 people are making decisions on their own, the board makes the decisions together. Vivian suggest an oversight board of 3 people to review large expenses for protection of the board. P&P does say they can only write cheques for \$200 without board approval so that is a form of protection. Others point out that the elected board is the oversight. Change P&P from chartered accountant to CPA.

-Carried



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Minutes of previous meeting – any error and omissions, if not motion to approve

-Vivian – Special thanks and recognitions – retiring directors – weren't all directors, so perhaps should say volunteers.

-motion to approve minutes as amended. Kim Burrows 1st Melvin 2nd Carried

Business arising from minutes

Steering Committee - Drew Spoelstra – Good evening everyone, long listener, 1st time caller. Quick shout out to Stephanie Vigliotta for the success of the Santa Claus Parade, great event and hope she is sticking around to doing it again. Last year at AGM we had request for long term plan, and board made committee shortly after AGM. Worked on it closer to this AGM, would like to thank volunteers for time and input, great mix of board members young, old, new and seasoned. Wanted to capture current goals and set future goals. Goal was to have a draft plan. (See Appendix 2 attached – strategic plan). Welcome any comments at this time. Mel Ramsay – well done.

Financial Report

Andy to introduce our new friend. Pat Butera for Financial Statements (See Appendix 3). Have you had a chance to look at them, any questions?

Numbers presented - what is included in general revenue? Everything that is left that doesn't fit into any of the main sections, standard report is top 5. Is Bell Tower, donations received, catering revenue, appreciation bar revenue, ATM revenue, etc.

Various people indicate they like the way it is laid out this year.
Pat explained the type of report.

Laurel advises that in all previous years we had an audit by an accountant and a notice to reader, just like this, Pat Butera advised he wasn't provided that to be able to comment. Laurel insists it's true, reminding all that Andy signed last year's letter at the request of Raymond Wilson.

Pat explains three levels of reviews; top one is an audit which involves a review of all records and provide an assurance that financials are what you see; next step, negative assurance, nothing has come to our attention that is misleading or false; last level is that he has compiled the records from financials provided by the board. Notice to reader is similar level as we had for last 10 years. Previous financial statements that I saw were not provided by an accountant. Motion to approve 1st Pat Powell 2nd Kim Burrows. Carried.

Committee reports

See Appendix 4

Brad – ATM didn't realize it was such a good revenue generator. Could use ATM at the gate during fair time. Could use square at both gates. Brian Lamb – regarding Queenston gates, proposal is for Rodeo on Sunday. Nik – exploring the option of widening Queenston Gate. Nik to add Buildings and Grounds committee, Paul Anderson is going to take care of a maintenance schedule, we are phasing out snow

fencing and moving to construction fences similar to what we implemented last year and also shorter crowd control barriers.

Comments from Guests

Heather Dillon – District 6 – Updates from the OAAS – judging school in Caledonia is available. Talk about new trends and new things to do. Also, just finished convention a couple of weeks ago, another very successful convention. Farmer Tim was a guest speaker and did a great job. 2nd governance session and Drew after all your hard work we will be alternating our 1st impressions program with strategic planning/programming. Thank you

Drew – to address the concern about volunteers/outreach. Events advertised in the Gazette, requested for volunteers on signs and Facebook. Information on website.

Nik – Congratulations to Drew, Heather and Hadley Spoelstra for receiving farm family of the year. Dinner is this weekend.

Shannon: thank you to all the members who have come out and helped, biggest concern is the state of the kitchen. Max we can cater out of the kitchen is 150 to 175. Many more and it is a nightmare, we need plug in cookers. Very tight space, I don't like the way things are going. I'm begging board to look at the kitchen and the future with catering. We are ready to go and grow as a group. We can't do it with what we have. Let's invest it. Money from catering tip account will not be put in the general account. They will be having an event.

Wilma – Need to book a time to do it – in advance because J&J's book them in advance.

Nik - Definitely the chance to investigate the kitchen renovation going forward. Want to see catering succeed and we want to renovate the kitchen, still not sure to what capacity. Lots of exploring to do.

Alicia, we have been recognizing the people who have been supporting the ag society. Zeda has been around and helped us for a number of years and for that we are very fortunate. Financial records speak to the success of the events that she holds. Very grateful for her support over the years and look forward for her advice going forward. Thank you Zeda!!

New Business

-Budget

Adjournment – Michelle Young moves to adjourn. At 8:45pm.

President

Recording Secretary