**Meeting Minutes**

**B.A.S. 2021 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

 **February 25, 2021 Thursday – 7:00pm**

1. **Call to order at 7:05pm by Andy Bienhaus – Prayer by Lois Whitwell**
2. **Attendance**

Please check in, if you have not already done do, with Karen Small – our office administrator.

Either verbally, or by chat room text message through the app.

We are keeping a formal attendance of members and guests at the meeting.

If you are able, rename your screen name, to reflect who is on your end as well.

For example if it’s presently “John”, or “farmerbob@gmail.com”, please edit it to show “Robert Jones”, if that’s your real registered name.

If you and your spouse are there, please make it “Betty and Robert Jones”, so we will know that you’re both out there.

Scott Goheen - Lois Whitwell - Kristal Sommer - Brenda Johnson – Shirley Randle – Andy Bienhaus – Pam Bienhaus – Sean Bienhaus – Connor Bienhaus – Mike and Karen Small – Wilma and Melvin Switzer – Colleen Zimmerman – Alicia Powell – Jill and Brian Lamb – Kim Burrows – Marcus Cardinali – Shannon and Lucas Wellnitz – Vivian Kinnear – Stephanie Vigliotta – Michele Bain – Nik and Kylene Oreskovic – Michelle Young – Jeff Wachniuk – Chris Donaldson – Fiore Zenone – Brian Ramsay – Bill Switzer – George Araujo – Shirley Peer – Drew Spoelstra – Grant MacLean (rep for Donna Skelly) – Bill and Diane Switzer – Paul and Arlene Anderson – Melinda Ramsay – Chad Roberts – Josh Burrows – Chris and Paul Devereux – Heather Dillon (District 6) – Rhonda Fairhurst – Gabby (Michael Kott)

1. **Procedures**

Andy - While zoom, teams, and other tools have facilitated a great number of things this year, including the legal approval of their use under the law for the purposes of evidence and witness, we intend to still do our best to adhere to the rules of parliamentary procedure, that should govern meetings such as this, under the Agriculture and Horticulture Act of Ontario, and as supported by our friends at OMAFRA.

This may include a couple of simple modifications, that you will witness tonight.

For example - during motions where the likelihood is that most would vote in the affirmative, we will ask instead first for abstentions and objections to identify themselves, thereby avoiding the tedious job of counting of the affirmative votes.

If a formal vote is required at any point tonight, we will share and approve a separate procedure for that, to ensure that membership rights are protected, and that the intentions if not the letter of the rules applied through Roberts Rules of Order are followed.

If at any point you need to speak, we could ask that much like a regular meeting where you would approach the microphone, we ask that you turn on your camera if you are able.

If you have a question, or need to raise your hand, please either use the tools built into the zoom product we are using tonight to do that, or, raise the attention of the chair verbally.

“Chairman”, if uttered loudly, will catch my attention and that of others.

We will also endeavour to ask for questions, and leave what may seem like unusually long pauses, to accommodate individuals to find the right button, or get themselves unmuted.

Honestly, it’s our first AGM like this, so we also ask your indulgence if we get stuck. Please be patient.

Lastly,

Please if you are able, to avoid background noise and meeting feedback through your microphone – do keep yourself muted unless you need to speak.

We can mute problematic audio connections from this end, if we must, but we’d rather not have to.

Please note as well, that while we will be recording the meeting for administrative purposes only, but it will not be posted online.

1. **Introductions & Welcome to Guests**

Andy - Many of our usual guests from across district 6 have been invited to participate this evening, and we would welcome the following persons:

Special guests Shirley Peer (OAAS District 6)

George Araujo (GM Norfolk County Fair, and OAAS District 6)

Donna Skelly –Grant attending on behalf (MPP Flamborough/Glanbrook)

Councillor Brenda Johnson (Municipal Representative – City of Hamilton)

Heather Dillon (OAAS)

There will be an opportunity for them to bring greetings and speak at the end of the agenda.

Is there anyone we have missed?

 Thank you all for coming.

1. **Presidents Report – The Year in Review**

Andy - The presidents report this evening, is also going to encompass the next item on the agenda as well, the one of special thanks and recognition.

Primarily because it is my honour to share on behalf of the executive and the board of the Binbrook Ag society, our sincere thanks to everyone who has pitched in, over the last year.

There are countless members who have quietly or secretly stepped up, to make sure things got done, and got done safely.

Much as we or they always have, but in new or different ways.

It’s not what happens that is important, it is how people react to it.

When we asked for help nearly a year ago, many people replied, and all the little things got done.

Help with the BAS, or people’s yard challenges, groceries, - it didn’t matter - everyone pulled together.

When stories of food bank shortages here, and lockdown challenges across the world surfaced, our own youth stepped up to help – and made a huge impact, safely.

The natural state of wear and tear still applies, even to us here at the BAS, so thanks also goes to those special folks who took the time to make sure everything was still safe and operational.

A thanks to Karen Small, our office administrator, who has kept us organized and on top of all the changes, rules, regulations and paperwork – while at the same time self-regulating her own hours, without being asked, to help keep us on a balanced budget for the remainder of the year, and rolling forward.

We have also still had some limited hall use, and rentals even, as the blood donor clinics are still a requirement, and she’s taking care of those.

All of these things have allowed us to be able to facilitate, as much as we can, common sense and safe meeting places, exercise areas, gathering places, etc, that might not otherwise be available.

Thank you everyone.

 Thank you.

Thank you for what you have done so far, and thank you for what is still yet to come.

Some good news stories to share, from the year, include the mention of our capital accounts during last year’s AGM, that we have been exploring – and an ask for your assistance.

In a nutshell, we have never been in as healthy a cash position, as we are today.

As an incorporated not for profit entity, we are permitted to keep reserves, but there are limits on unidentified cash or cash equivalents, year to year, before we attract the attention of Canada Revenue.

And, as we have learned in the last year, you also don’t qualify for many grants or grant applications, when your bank account is so flush.

As a board we have begun to brainstorm the realities that we are saving these funds for, and would welcome your help.

Capital projects, repairs, refresh, or rebuild. New or old, there are no dumb ideas.

We will seek further input once the list is formed up – but the idea would be then that those funds we have worked so hard for, may still be saved much longer, but are being saving for a designated project – from an accounting perspective.

Feel free to send your thoughts and ideas in to the office, but examples already raised include; a proper maintenance building, heating and air conditioning replacement, new roof funds, kitchen renovations, and gates or facade improvements.

Those sorts of things.

This doesn’t mean they’re happening tomorrow, not by any stretch.

It’s simply part of long-term sustainability planning, as we look at the next 5, 10, and 25 years here in the heart of Binbrook.

And as always, we’re asking for your input as members.

Our fall fair was hit last year, obviously, but we still managed to share some of the important elements of our mandate for Ag Education with the community, and the world.

This year, will be likely impacted as well – but we are already looking at other ways of helping everyone embrace community and agriculture, by alternative methods.

The junior department just emailed, sharing some ideas for submitted videos, art, and homegrown veg – all of which we have the technology to support as real entries, through an online portal.

As chair people out there listen to this, please, think about ways we can do this within your department.

I would invite Melinda Ramsay to take a couple of minutes to share 2019’s story, and some of the elements we are looking at for not only enhancing 2020, but adding to every year moving forward.

Both for fair items, and Ag Education.

Melinda Ramsay – We had unfortunate reality of fair being cancelled, didn’t have a lot of time to put a complete virtual fair together but we did a good job in the time we had. We are working towards building the website to store anything shared on social media. Long-term goals of having a yearly virtual model. This year, sheep shearing, Drew did heavy horse pulls, Kylene did milking show, live streamed chicks hatching, alpaca shearing, etc. We have discovered since then that we will be able to store them and access them later. Board committed to building a library of ag education so other people can access it at any time. For 2021 the ag ed committee is looking at expanding that and providing it completely virtually which would enhance our reach for the program. Assist Expo have a virtual model that we will be able to purchase and use and they are well versed in the virtual competition. See how we can become flexible and introduce a virtual element.

Andy - Another great new idea that has come out of open brainstorming, is taking some of the entries into the streets and homes!

Gardens last year, of many types, were awesome, and this year will likely be again, here’s Clint and Colleen to share some of their ideas on where the Ag Society might help facilitate, and where some of you might help too.

Clint/Colleen – Wondered if way to engage with members in the community if live fair is in doubt, consider moving garden show out of the hall to the backyard. Showcase some of the skills people in the community have. Are things we can do virtually, taking off the theme of Ridin, Rockin, Livestockin, similar to City of Hamilton Trillium Awards it would be great to be able to give a spotlight to those that did get into gardening and could spotlight the civic pride and community aspect.

Andy - This is just the beginning, but please share with your friends and neighbours and bring back your ideas and/or assistance!

I also today heard from one of our past talent contest winners, who wants to bring back the Binbrook Idol contest, because anyone can sing in the shower!

Our farmers market in town, also took a hit last year, but as part of our mandate to support local agriculture, we have been exploring options for 2020.

Here’s Alicia with some reflections and thoughts on our farmers market, that we have been so proud of, for so long.

Alicia – Went through a year of no market and loss of gathering and loss of opportunity for the vendors to get products into our community. There is renewed energy from our community to get out there and support local growers and farmers. Value of market is social and community aspect in the heart and center of our town. Time for it to come back. There are restrictions for outdoor gatherings including Farmers Markets. April set up season and policies, will extend grace to our vendors to get them back into our community, look forward to continued support.

Andy - Obviously without some of our cornerstone events able to run at full profit potential, financial concerns have been important to the board and executive.

The good news is twofold.

1.    Many of our small residual income sources, continue to operate and are not impacted by covid.

2.    Our larger ticket events like the fair, while being good sources of revenue, are also equally high sources of expense.

We have been working with a rolling budget since April of last year, and continue to project six months ahead, adjusting expected income and related expenses as accuracy improves in this area, setting percentage likelihood targets next to real numbers, to be able to monitor and manage expectations.

For many people, vaccine availability is seen as an influencing factor, and while that is true, and there is optimism to be gained there, rules and regulations from public health are unlikely to be lifted until real net results are seen and measurable.

We’ve also seen in the last week, that Canada is unfortunately slipping even further behind in this area.

But, we keep a good watch on it all, we’ll do our best to be prepared for what comes.

We have learned from this last year, and will come out the other side together.

Wiser.

There are still ways we can help our community – and we will.

Last year, we were of course unable to hold our annual volunteer appreciation dinner, and identified that it was an important annual point of contact with all of you – so instead we adapted, and sponsored all of the outreach meals from Glanbrook Home Support, for the month of December. Many of those clients, are past volunteers, and they’re all members of our community.

It’s just one example.

In closing, again, thank you to everyone, for their continued involvement, support, and engagement.

And while we aren’t really apart… We’ll be together again soon.

1. **Election of Directors for 3year term – report by Nik Oreskovic**

1 year term – Shannon, Fiore, Chad, Drew, Alicia, Clint

2 year term – Andy, Paul, Melinda, Brian, Dan, 1 to be voted on (Jeff Wachniuk)

3 year term – Kim Burrows, Marcus Cardinali, Kristal, Nik, Josh, Colleen

 Alicia makes three calls to the floor, for further nominations.

Melvin moves to close nominations and Mel R 2nd motion.

Melvin makes motion to approve names to Board, 2nd by Alicia. No abstentions or objections, motion passed.

1. **Affirmation of Homecraft President**

Maren Nimec – President, Shirley Randle – Vice-President. Alicia makes motion to affirm Maren Nimec to President with full voting rights, 2nd Melinda R, no abstentions or objections, motion passed.

1. **Minutes of previous meeting – February 27th, 2020 (errors or omissions)**

Shannon makes motion to accept minutes, Shirley 2nd, any discussions, abstentions or objections, minutes accepted

1. **Business arising from minutes**

none

1. **Financial Report**

Andy – presented by Pat Butera – any questions?

Vehicle storage we still had and some hall rentals. No revenue from craft show, fair and turkey raffle. Some grants from OMAFRA. Two expenses paid in 2020 but they were o/s expenses from 2019 (security from fair and sewer repair). Any questions? Brian Lamb motion to accept as submitted, have been reviewed by board and voted to recommend as is, 2nd Melinda Ramsay, any opposed or abstentions, motion passed.

1. **Committee reports**

-N/A as no fair, any comments/ideas for virtual from chairpersons

-Require Chairperson for Pedestrian Gate

1. ***1st Binbrook Scouts***

Andy on behalf of – Obviously affected by Covid, we may have actually been the first thing hit in Binbrook… having to cancel our March break trip to new York city last year, a mere 36 hours before we were due to leave.

A sad moment to be sure, but a necessary one.

Youth meetings went online, as we tried to adapt, while still giving the youth a mental health escape from the so-called new normal.

When help was needed though, the youth still figured out how to help, organizing a bottle & food drive, in support of the Glanbrook Food Bank, and a partner village in Kenya, that was decimated with crime from the lockdown in their own town.

As always, the kids found a way.

Over the summer, 1st Binbrook changed its national Scouting affiliation, which has given us more program flexibility, better support, better insurance, and an over $200 per member reduction in annual registration fees for parents.

Late summer, with that flexibility, and the better formalization of rules from public health, senior youth were able to plan and execute a 5 day canoe trip for 16, into parts of Algonquin park that are so remote, we were alone on lakes at times… in some truly beautiful landscapes.

Healthy reminders for all, that the world is still a good and wonderful place.

Fall brought as active a program as we could, with our new focus being on as much hands-on in the outdoors as was possible, while still safely following public health rules.

Thanks to the BAS for their property support as always, and apologies to Member Brian Lamb, who lives across the back track, for those nights when we lit up the demo pit area like daylight in support of that fun.

Thank you to the BAS, it’s members and supporters, for our continued partnership, in support of the youth and their families in Binbrook.

We look forward to what’s next – and can affirm that we haven’t given up on new York city, but have simply moved it out to March Break 2022!

 Thank you

1. **Comments from Guests**

Brenda Johnson – so pleased to see some of you as haven’t seen most of you in so long. Vaccines coming very soon to Binbrook. 80 years and older and coming to Binbrook, please let me know if you know someone who hasn’t received notification please let me know. If any individual organizations are fundraising please let me know so I can post on our social media. I was listening to Clint and Colleen intently and trillium / sunflower awards has Flamborough and Ancaster does their own, I can help with that too. I feel like I have been volunteering my entire life and last year has been dead zone, I will be there for you.

 Grant – Donna Skelly wanted to thank everyone for inviting to our AGM. Times are tough on all those that haven’t been able to be open through 2 shutdowns. Website called reliefwithinreach.ca and it has been very successful. Anyone who knows a small business that has been shutdown, just has to show a loss, our office can help. Hoping that with the vaccines and we start getting the doses out that by the end of summer hopefully it will be possible to get back to the fair. No guarantees for this year and if everything goes well it may be possible. Thank you and stay safe and hopefully we see each other soon.

 George – Thrilled to come tonight and enjoy and share with your community. Thrilled to be on executive for district 6 and looking forward to attending my first Binbrook Fair in September.

 Shirley – Thank you for inviting District 6 to join the AGM this evening and would like to wish members, board a safe and healthy 2021. Move forward and carry on as best you can. Binbrook will do well for years to come.

 Heather – On the phone because driving home, but great meeting. Great to hear plans for moving forward, so good to hear the optimism, you guys are really looking at how to make it work. OAAS has been really busy, Vince working very hard and grant money is coming out. Videos from convention will be up until March 31st. Looking forward to day when we can be in person in same room and on the fairgrounds.

1. **New Business -** Anything?
2. **Adjournment**

To Michele Bain; condolences over the loss of your Dad. Thoughts and prayers are with you.

Motion to adjourn – 7:57pm – Jeff Wachniuk.

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President – Andrew Bienhaus Minutes recorded by – Karen Small