

**Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies
Board Meeting via Zoom
March 16, 2021, at 7:30 pm**



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

Staff: Vince Brennan, Kathryn Lambert

Absent:

Guests:

Minutes

1. Call to Order at 7:30 pm sharp
2. Welcome/Introductory Comments - Beth Howell-Vervaecke
3. Appoint an Action sheet recorder – Liz O'Gorman-Smit
4. The role call for this meeting is – District Spring meeting Date & time
Please send Vince an email with the dates to confirm
5. Approval of Agenda
Motion by Valerie Allen to approve agenda as presented
Seconded by Linda Murray
Carried Yes – 18; No – 0; Abstain – 0
6. Declaration of Conflict of Interest - none
7. Code of Conduct - sign and send to the manager before the April meeting for our records
8. Approval of Minutes of February 9th, 2021 meeting
Motion by Randy Creighton to approve minutes as presented for February 9, 2021.
Seconded by Grace Mullen
Carried Yes – 17; No – 0; Abstain – 1
9. Any Business Arising from the minutes? – none
10. Review Action Sheet
Membership dues - 3 or 4 Agricultural Societies still have not submitted fees
Beth set up a timetable for the Action Sheet recorder – paired new Director with their mentor
Name of Action Recorder will be included in the agenda
11. Board Correspondence – on website
Letter from Rob Black
Letter from Cathy Redden
Letter from Meredith Brophy
12. Committee Reports - motion for received committee reports
Motion by Carol Cann to receive Committee Reports as reported
Seconded by Liz O'Gorman-Smit
Carried Yes - 18; No - 0; Abstain – 0

Executive

*"The OAAS is committed to providing an environment in which all persons are treated with respect and dignity.
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- Report

13. Review the Board committees - input/questions - Beth

There are no changes from the list that was sent out

The committee list is posted on the secure website

We need to set up committee meetings. A suggestion that the 1st first person on each committee list will book the first meeting – duty of the chairman after the first meeting to call meetings

Motion by Brian Slaughter that Doug Yeo and Guy Scott be re-appointed as non-Board members of the ad hoc 175th Anniversary Committee

Seconded by Heather Owens

Carried Yes – 14; No – 0; Abstain – 0

Motion by Brian Slaughter that the Judging Panel be re-appointed as a non-Board members of the ad hoc Judging Panel.

Seconded by Heather Owens

Carried Yes – 16; No – 0; Abstain – 0

Motion by Liz O'Gorman-Smit to approve the Board committees as presented.

Seconded by Grace Mullen

Carried Yes – 18; No – 0; Abstain – 0

14. Manager updates – Vince Brennan

- **Finance statements**

We are in good financial shape at this time, but there will be very little further income for the balance of the fiscal year.

Money is on its way for the Auction – waiting for items to be delivered

Motion by Mike Dupuis to accept financial reports as presented

Seconded by Leonard Riopel

Carried Yes – 18; No – 0; Abstain – 0

- **Fair Passports**

Should we consider printing Passports in 2021 or defer until 2022?

Motion by Brian Slaughter to defer printing Passports until 2022.

Seconded by Valerie Allen

Carried Yes – 18; No – 0; Abstain – 0

- **Directory printing** (small quantity)

Should we produce enough for the Provincial and District Directors and Service Members for 2021

Motion by Glen Syme to approve the printing of 200 'Fair Directories' for the Provincial and District Directors and Service Members

Seconded by Andrew Icton

Carried Yes – 17; No – 1; Abstain – 0

Price approximately 300 to \$350 to print 200.

- **Fair date brochures**

Looking for direction on how many we should print and distribute this year

Motion by Glen Syme to approve printing a quantity of 'Fair Date Brochures' for distribution to Agricultural Societies and Tourist Centres as determined by the OAAS Manager

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Seconded by Liz O'Gorman-Smit
Carried Yes – 0; No – 0; Abstain – 0 –
Motion rescinded by Glen and Liz.

Motion by Mike Dupuis to defer this decision (on printing Fair Date Brochures) until the May meeting

Seconded by Glen Syme
Carried Yes – 17; No – 0; Abstain – 0

- **Renewing District Zoom accounts**

Should we consider offering to pay 50% of a District Zoom account for 2021 – the same as 2020.

Motion by Heather Dillon to approve to pay 50% of the cost of a Pro level Zoom account for each District

Seconded by Liz O'Gorman-Smit
Carried Yes – 17; No – 0; Abstain – 0

- **Judging Program**

- **Delay Judges' Requirements deadline until January 1, 2023**

With the continued public health stipulations, I don't expect that any judging schools will be held before the fall to allow Judges to remain certified - proposing that we defer the Judges' Requirements deadline until January 1, 2023

Motion by Heather Owens that the OAAS modify the "Requirements for OAAS Certified & Apprentice Judges Policy" to update the December 31, 2021 deadline to January 1, 2023. .

Seconded by Heather Dillon
Carried Yes – 18; No – 0; Abstain – 0

- **New Ag & Hort Judging handbook**

We planned that we would move forward with the Agriculture & Horticulture Judging Standards Handbook after the 2020 Convention, but that was put on hold by COVID. Our OHA contact recently emailed us to see what the status was on our Judging Standards, and we indicated that we are hoping to start moving forward in the next couple of months.

- **Request from Ottawa Valley Seed Growers**

Early last year, we received a request for the Ottawa Valley Seed Growers to see if the OAAS was interested in working with them on their Seeds and Crops Judging School last spring. They have recently contacted us to involve the OAAS in their latest project, which is a virtual Judging School.

They are aware that our board decided last year that we were not interested in online judging schools

I would like to propose that we work with them to see if it is possible to create Judges' training that would meet the standards that the OAAS is working to achieve with its Judging Program, as well as create a process to ensure that the participants have participated fully and understood the material.

Motion by Valerie Allen that the OAAS work with the Ottawa Valley Seed Growers in the development of their virtual Judging Program

Seconded by Leonard Riopel
Carried Yes – 17; No – 1; Abstain – 0

- **Request for virtual judging school**

We received a request from a District wondering if it was possible to have virtual judging classes or schools. .

The hands-on component in an in-person Judging School is essential to properly train and assess our Judges. The equipment and expertise required to host a virtual Judging school would also be prohibitive in many Districts. The OAAS does not have the staff or budget at this time to investigate virtual training.

Motion by Glen Syme that the OAAS, in consultation with the Judging Panel, will create a framework and criteria that the virtual Judging School proposal must meet for the Board and Judging Panel to consider their proposal for approval.

Seconded by Brian Slaughter

Carried Yes – 16; No – 1; Abstain – 0

Motion by Glen Syme that the OAAS respond to any District, Agricultural Society, group or person interested in hosting a virtual Judging School must submit a detailed plan and outline within the Virtual Judging School framework and criteria that was created by the OAAS of how they would plan and carry out the Judging School prior to it being considered for approval.

Seconded by Liz O'Gorman-Smit

Carried Yes – 18; No – 0; Abstain – 0

Beth - District was looking at providing information on Best practices, tool kit, etc. to keep Judges engaged until we get back to in-person judging

Recommended by the Judging Panel that we post the Homecraft Judging Standards Handbook on the website for a limited time to help keep Judges engaged

A complimentary one will still be provided at Judging School as per the previous motion.

Motion by Leonard Riopel that we post Homecraft Judging Standards Handbook on line and for a limited time.

Seconded by Heather Owens

Carried Yes – 18; No – 0; Abstain – 0

- **Provincial Competitions**

Should we be considering cancelling the Provincial Competitions again for the 2022 Convention?

Motion by Valerie Allen that the OAAS cancel the OAAS Competitions for the 2022 Convention

Seconded by Bart Scherpenzeel

Carried Yes – 18; No – 0; Abstain – 0

- **Discussion around becoming a charitable status organization**

Should the OAAS consider becoming a charitable status organization?

Motion by Brian that the OAAS Manager has the authority to investigate the advantages and disadvantages of the OAAS becoming a charitable status organization

Seconded by Mike Dupuis

Carried Yes – 18; No – 0; Abstain – 0

- **Outstanding Directory Updates**

A number of fairs have not completed their Directory updates – Deadline extended to March 15 – will start updating the website at that time

- **District Director Zoom meeting**

In the last couple of Conventions, we held District Directors' meetings. During this Convention, we used that time slot to discuss OAAS Strategic Planning. We are wondering we should offer a Zoom Meeting for the District Directors to replace the District Director meeting that has been held previously.

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- **Spring OAAS webinars.**

We are planning on holding a series of webinars similar to what we held last spring. If you have any ideas for topics, please email them to me.

- **Printing small number of Annual Reports –**

There is a digital version of the 2020 Annual Report on our website. Because of requests, we are planning to print a few – there will be a charge to cover the cost of mailing – information on how to order a printed Annual Report will be on the website.

- **Input around District and Provincial travel expenses**

should we update the budget to add any?

Can we afford travel in 2021?

15. Convention Administrator updates – Kathryn Lambert

Convention Review

- 53 pages of feedback from the survey
- 639 registered – 700 or 750 there for sure with households
- Shared info on top 10 Seminars, Quick Tips & Talks, and Entertainment & Family Entertainment showcases
- 1,300 followers on FB; 464 followers on Instagram
- Social Media Stats for the week of Convention
 - Over 9,900 visits, 1,300 likes for FB
 - Top 2 FB pages – Red Ribbon Celebration 3.6k views; Cookbook recipes 2.9k views
 - 215 Instagram visits
- Online Auction – 65 items with total sales of \$8,095.50 less credit card fees
- 55 Tradeshow booths – Egg Farmers of Ontario 399 visitors
- Survey responses - 171 versus 100 at our 2020 in-person convention
- Comments were very positive
- Many people commented on how much they liked the option to go back and see the recorded versions after

2022 Convention - Room reservations available starting May 3, 8:30am to 4:30pm

16. Election of Member at Large

Nomination Committee Report

- Randy Creighton
- Heather Owens
- Grace Mullen
- Linda Murray – declined due to family issues

No further nominations from the floor

Motion by Heather Owens to make Bev as recording secretary

Seconded by Mike Dupuis

Carried

Motion by Linda Murray to have Kathryn & Bev as scrutineers

Seconded by Valerie Allen

Carried

Heather Owens was elected as Member as Large

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17. Board Orientation – Vince – deferred presentation to the April meeting
18. Strategic plan – more information to follow
Planning Saturday morning at our April meeting

Committee Reports to Vince to 10 days before Board meetings
Brian - congratulations to Vince for five years with the OAAS.

19. Next meeting
20. Adjourn

Board Meeting dates: April 9 & 10, May 18, June 15, July 20, August 17, September 21, October 22 & 23, November 16, December 21, January 18, 2022