



Massey Agricultural Society
Board Meeting Minutes
March 25th, 2025, 6:30 pm. S. Geiger

PRESENT

Board: President – Lindsey Cada-Tremblay; Vice-President – Leslee Salo; Treasurer – Dianne Emiry; Secretary - Jolie Bianchin; Directors: Amy Bowes, Keith Emiry, Jessica Rainville, Jamie Fournier.

Associates: Lina Vermeer, Jane Whiter-Weston, Ernie Desjardins.

Youth – Karma Griggs.

Representative: Cheryl Phillips

Absent: Ashleigh Desormeaux, Laura Courtemanche, Gary Vermeer, Nick McCormick.

1. Call to Order - 6:38 pm

2. Statement of Indigenous Respect & Acknowledgement.

“We would like to begin by acknowledging that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Sagamok Anishinaabe People. We are dedicated to honouring Indigenous history and culture and are committed to moving forward in the spirit of reconciliation and respect. May we respectfully honour the voices of the Anishinaabe and ensure they are represented in our collections, programs, and services.”

3. Confirmation of Quorum - we have quorum.

4. Rules/Decorum/Info
Leslee Chairing. Jolie Secretary

5. Declaration of conflict of interest - NONE

6. Agenda Adjustments

- Serge sends Regrets
- Horticultural Society sends regrets
- Update on Leslee Webinar to next meeting
- Incubatory Quotes - next meeting
- New Business: Trailer Park

7. Approval of Agenda

Be it RESOLVED that the MAS Board approves the Agenda with the above-noted adjustments.

MOTION by: Amy Bowes. SECONDED by: Jessica Rainville. CARRIED.

8. Guests - Both gave regrets.

- a) Serge
- b) Horticultural Society

9. Approval of Previous Minutes

Be it RESOLVED that the MAS Board approves the last meeting minutes of February 25, 2025. MOTION by: Dianne Emiry. SECONDED by: Jessica Rainville. CARRIED

10. Correspondence

- a) Correspondence (from S. Geiger re: donation).

Dear Massey Agricultural Society, Thank you for your generous donation to our breakfast program. Your support helps us to provide our students access to healthy, nutritious food and gives them the best opportunity to learn. We truly appreciate it. Shelley Tamura, Principal S. Geiger.

- b) Request by Tracey Vandergulik

The MAS Board has agreed to allow Tracey to use tables and chairs in exchange for one DJ session.

- c) Subject: TSSR Email

We have not yet received a favorable response from the municipality concerning the inclusion of dirt bike trick riders. We are a bit perplexed by this development, especially since we were able to host them in the past. It seems that we are facing additional challenges this time around. Could this change be related to the dirt bikes seeking to practice regularly at the site? We believe there is a precedent for this, as we successfully had trick riders in 2019. Discussion:

For the past three years, Dianne has written to the municipality requesting specific exemptions from the noise bylaw.

Conclusion: Due to time constraints and issues with having to follow a new protocol/process to receive permission for trick/dirt bikes, we cannot include dirt bikes in this year's lineup. We can consider adding them for next year.

Action:

- ★ **Dianne to send documents of past communications to the municipality with Lindsey.**
- ★ **Lindsey is to go back to the council with rewritten communication to receive approval on the noise bylaw exemptions for the 2025 fair.**

- d) Outdoor trailer storage

Request from a person to store their trailer outside at the fairgrounds until the 2nd week of May. Agreed to charge \$100 and have them fill out our contract.

11. Treasurer's Report

a) Financial Reports

Financial reports were reviewed. We have a GIC that has come to term. Discussed keeping it in GIC for another 30 days.

Be it RESOLVED that the MAS board agrees to extend GIC for another 30 days. MOTION by: Dianne Emiry. SECONDED by: Jamie Fournier. CARRIED.

b) Update on CRA

We lost our charitable status because the last two treasurers did not file the necessary paperwork correctly. We are currently working to resolve this issue with the help of our accountant, who is in contact with the CRA. Our application is submitted, but this situation has caused several other problems, including delays in ticket sales due to our inability to locate our business number. However, we now have access to the CRA and have obtained a business number. We are confident that we will be okay. In another related discussion, mail was at the post office from CRA but was not given out because it was addressed to a specific person. This caused a delay. We have agreed to have Jane Withers, Jolie Bianchin, and Jessica Rainville listed as persons who can collect the mail.

ACTION: Jolie to drop off form at the post office.

11. Old Business

a) By-Law for Dirt Bikes - no update. No response.

b) Golf cart rentals - Ernie

Family friend - Doug Lachance. Used Golf carts in Espanola. Borrow/rent - he likes the idea. He is willing to talk to us.

How many carts do we need? 10 carts. What does insurance say about liability with golf carts? Are they insured?

Discussion: We believe that 10 carts would be sufficient for our fair. We would consider allowing free space to display/sell carts for the exchange of carts at the fair.

Action:

o **Dianne, check with insurance.**

o **Leslee is emailing Ernie a sponsorship letter/insurance coverage.**

o **Ernie - Will he sponsor - yes or no? If not, how much will he rent to us for?**

c) Toronto Road Update - Gary

The meeting was cancelled due to weather and lack of quorum. We are on the agenda to present on Thursday, April 3 at 630pm.

12. New Business

a) Motorsports Update - Jamie

Still waiting to hear back from Impact. Sleigh is secured with TCB.

Discussion:

Jamie: Moving forward, discussions will be held only between the board and will not include anyone else.

Jane: Motorsports, do we have a plan for Saturday? A meeting is coming up. Saturday is not completed yet. Up in the air.

Impact - Adding ½ day on Saturday and a whole day on Sunday. Figure 8 racing. Get a quote.

Truck pull is our event. We are putting out the prizes and collecting entry fees.

We need accurate information. What will this truck pull look like? Give us the exact classes.

Last year the more people we had, the better the prizes. \$250 for first place.

Action:

★ **Send out official correspondence to past participants thanking them for their contributions to making 2024 a success. Keep it professional and courteous.**

★ **Lindsey to post a picture of the sleigh and add to Facebook asap.**

★ **Add Official ways to contact the MAS on every post.**

b) Ambassador Program - Montana/Amy

We had a few meetings. The suggestions are:

Ages for entry are 15 to 23 with a \$100 entry fee.

We need a place for girls to change and walk in heels.

Budget estimated at \$3500. The participants can do fundraising or seek sponsors to cover the fees. Overall winner - crown.

Cost was shared for crowns, Spector, and Sasch. All in USD.

We would use a Score method for judging.

This data was based on New Liskeard, Kirkland Lake, and Listwell Pageants. Met with them at the convention.

Discussion:

What is the purpose of the Ambassador Program?

The program aims to foster leadership, public speaking, and engagement skills in youth, while also promoting the agricultural sector and community events.

OAAS - open to males and females. Encompass the fair, not the gender presentation/evening gown.

What does the ambassador do? Giving out prizes and attending - first year, keep it simple.

\$100 entry is high.

Dim it down a bit. Scholastic - write an essay.

Agriculture - we need to emphasize this.

Keep with the theme of Back to our roots in cowboy boots.

Why are we running an ambassador program for 15 - 23-year-olds?

We want them to be more involved.

Stratford Ambassador Program - very basic.

Agriculture-themed.

Is this happening at the fair or will they be selected before the fair in order to assist as volunteers?

Hold in Emiry?

Look what we are doing for this age group! We go big.

As soon as they enter the competition, we are looking for a sponsor.

OAAS has a supplier in Ontario for staches/tiara/halter/pitchfork.

What is the reward for them? OAAS gets to go to the convention and get leadership training, CNE as our representative. Part of the program is Ontario-wide.

Action:

- **Have the committee revisit and resubmit to encompass suggestions.**
- **The person selected has a great opportunity for development. We want to make sure that this is represented to MAS.**
- **The entry fee should be a membership fee.**

c) Fencing by the Emiry Building - Leslee

Fencing outside by Emiry building. Not hard to fix. Hopes/Dreams/ multi animal facility. Can we use it for goatopia/sheep?

Spend some money on updating. Leslee will work on the plan and pricing.

Perimeter 200ft

Use smaller cage wire for goat and sheep.

Action: Leslee to contact local fencing guy - Warren Martin. Once we have the cost and plan, we can bring it forward to have a motion and make a plan.

d) Update on Certified/Apprentice Judges Webinar (Mar. 19). Could not attend webinar due to technical difficulties - March 31st next one.

e) Update on Bursary for EHS - Leslee

E-mail March 18 - thank us for continued support. Need to fill out a criteria questionnaire.

\$250 donation. Community Involvement/Critical thinking/Journalism/Public Relations.

Lindsey will go to graduation to represent MAS.

f) Follow up from Bruce Mines Exhibit meeting on March 22. Leslee

Not able to go. Lindsey was not able to go.

The District 12 meeting should be in late April. Hosting District 12 - April 26th.

g) Update on the Internet - Dianne

The Internet provider from last year was not able to give us the internet we needed. His goal is to be able to spread our internet to a wider area. Eastlink has signed up to be a vendor.

Great opportunity to show how your internet works with us.

Discussion:

Ernie suggested reaching out to Roger or Bell Tower and asking for a booster during fair week that can assist communications during this very busy event.

The municipality is still working on trying to address the lack of internet connectivity.

We do have fibre optics at the fairground.

Should we have a landline at the fair? It was suggested that a landline may be a great option, especially in an emergency.

Action: Jane will call Roger and see if they can put a booster on the tower during the fair weekend.

h) OMAFRA Careers Grant - Amy

Ag Space. Careers booth \$500 rebate from taxes.

New booth. Set it up as we always have. \$500 credit back for fair days. Other money to be accessed - specific to personalize pamphlets. Hire and pay someone to be at the booth.

There are very specific criteria.

Action: Amy is to send more detailed information for the board to make a decision.

i) Plan for free admissions for participants - Dianne

Last year:

ATV/UTV truck drivers were supposed to pay for their admission, but got a cheap stay.

Demo derby - pays if they come.

Horse Show - The Person riding the horse came in free, but they had to pay for their stalls.

They got a reduced rate to stay overnight

4H kids came in free if showing a calf.

What are we going to do?

Motorsports - do not need special camping.

Derby - no special camping.

Volunteer rate camping.

Discounted prices for people who are taking on the liability of bringing animals and showing animals.

Reduced rate for horse camping. 50% off last year.

4H - sponsor them

Truck Pull - they have to buy early bird tickets for a discount

Impact people pay at the gates. Participants have to pay to enter the ground, and entry fees are tickets for sale (early bird).

j) Risk Assessment - Jamie - When the grounds open, have a committee go around the site and going and review risks and have plans to counter the risks.

Do we have an escape plan? Yes. We also have a developed checklist.

Discussion:

In spring local fire department does a walk-through. Inspects all vendors. Fire extinguishers need to be rebooted. Incident reports need to be used in all areas. Samples for an incident report. We all need to know where it is, how to fill it out, and who to contact.

Camping rules are sent out. Fire pits are in the rules.

We have a fire plan.

Plan in every building.

Plan for liquor licence

Escape routes

Contained fires.

Action:

- **Lindsey will present a checklist. She started one. Dianne to share the**

current/previously used checklist.

- **Dianne will bring camping rules to the next meeting.**

k) Health and Safety Committee

Do we have anyone interested in sitting on the H&S committee?

l) OAS - Keith

Building community leaders programs. Two advertised opportunities that have not been filled.

Northern District gets a northern location, will MAS commit to sending 5 spots? Summertime workshops? Winter is a better option.

First impression programs. Time for Massey. Partner up with another Ag society within easy driving distance. We send people to their fair. Make suggestions to make things better and vice versa.

Keith will put Massey's name on the list.

Judging workshops - encouraging more members to take the workshops. We are the central location within the district.

Trailer update - We did not maximize the space. We need to get someone on the grounds to maximize the grounds so that we can get more people in. We can measure lots.

Mennonites may be a good option as well if Bob Mailloux does not have time.

20 x 50 spot.

20x20 tent

Rob Bianchin is willing to assist Keith in this endeavour.

14 Committee Reports (Amy)

a) Spring Fair Update

Day of Fair - people to hand out chicks and seeds

Lindsey will pack up food

We need assistance the week before to get Emery building cleaned up

Setting up pens - in the outside area - Chris

BBQ area - Jamie is doing the BBQ. One person selling tickets, one person assembling. Jolie is willing to sell tickets.

Meet - Special meeting for Spring Fair.

b) Community Garden Update - next meeting

c) Ag Education Update for Fair - next meeting

d) Incubator and Caging Quotes - next meeting

13. Comments/Announcements

(Special announcements, congratulations, recognitions, and reminders. Board members can also use this time to **suggest agenda items** for the next meeting.)

Volunteer - how many hours do they have to work to get it for free?

**14. Be it RESOLVED that the MAS Board has adjourned its meeting at 9:28 pm.
MOVED by: Amy Bowes**

15. Next Meeting - APRIL 22, 2025 @ 6:30 PM. Geiger.

Signature: Lindsey Cada-Tremblay (President)	Signature: Jolie Bianchin (Secretary)
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