

EBLES Meeting – Minutes December 10, 2020

PRESENT: Dianne McGuire, Ted Simmons, Claire Vessey, Kristen Hoel, Jennie Hutchison, Laura Foxgord, Kira Carnel, Patti Brown, Joshua Periard.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

- November minutes were approved.

TREASURERS REPORT:

- Current account was \$10,392.27.
- The opening balance was \$10,367.67. There were revenues of \$50 for a membership and donation, and a hydro bill of \$25.40 was paid
- Liability and directors' insurances need to be and will cost up to \$2000.00, a deposit of about \$1500 is expected from Event Brite. There will be a hydro bill and a water bill in January. Both are expected to be small. A bill of approximately \$10,500 is expected for the ring remediation.
- All donations are reconciled. Total donations to date are \$2295.
- There has been no deposit from Event Brite since September 9. Jennie will follow up with Lara about this.

MEMBERSHIP:

- 2021 members to date is 27 made up of 11 individual members, 5 lifetime members, 8 family member and 3 donors.
- It was agreed that putting up posters and sending a Facebook posts encouraging people to join would be done in January

FACILITIES:

- The ring remediation did not turn out well. The footing is too soft, particularly in the corners and rocks from the base were stirred into the footing. While the small rocks should not present a risk of stone bruises, some rock are fist size and could get stuck in a horse's shoe. Roots had infiltrated a portion of the ring and the resulting root mats had to be trucked away and disposed of which drove the cost of the ring remediation up considerably. The lines for the sprinklers had to be removed. It was decided that reinstalling them would be a separate project. They will be reinstalled on the outside of the fence so they will be out of the way for future work on the footing.
- It was agreed that the ring was unsafe and would be closed until something could be done to address the problems. The option of adding a layer of hog fuel on the surface was proposed but it was decided that it would only add to the cost of removing the material. All the footing will need to be removed and replaced. A vote was taken and six members voted to close the ring.
- The question of whether to aim to resurface the ring in hog fuel or sand was raised. Some members were adamantly opposed to sand as it does not have the spring that hog fuel does and would be more expensive. Other members thought sand was a good idea. Jennie said resurfacing in hog fuel would cost about \$40,000.
- Detailed quotes, itemizing what will be done and providing the hourly rate for extras are needed.
- There was a discussion on what would be necessary to switch to sand. The base preparation would be totally different. Currently there is a base of 1 ½ inch clear gravel with drains in it. Switching to sand would require successive layers of finer gravel to be added and compacted. It was suggested that something like GGT could be added to the sand to get a softer ride.

- It was decided to put the question to the membership. Dianne will draft an email to the membership explaining the current situation and asking whether EBLES should aim to resurface in hog fuel or sand. She will circulate it to the Executive for comment and approval. It should also be posted on social media/Facebook
- The Leaf Raking Party went well. Seven people participated. All the necessary work got done.

RENTALS:

- There are no prospects for rentals.

FUND RAISING:

- \$2295 in donations has been received.
- Dianne will send out thank you notes. She will get cards; hand write a thank you message to the effect of 'Thank you for your generous donation in our time of need' and send them by mail.
- Jennie has prepared most of the tax receipts. She just has 3 or 4 more to do. She will send them out via email.
- The issue of whether to host a Go Fund Me site was tabled until January.
- Claire will prepare HCBC, Community Gaming, Sidney Lions, Telus and Kwanis grant applications

TRAILS:

- All the trails are good.

COMMUNICATIONS

- Communications needed:
 - Thank you notes to donors
 - Email and social media posts to members,

OTHER/NEW BUSINESS:

- Capri insurance rates have jumped therefore Jennie is getting quotes for insurance from other companies to see if we can get a better rate. Jennie will send an email out on Monday with options. It was agreed that the amount of director's insurance should be the same as last year.
- Dianne will prepare the Annual Report to CRD
- There are volunteers for all the Executive roles.
- The AGM and January monthly EBLES meeting will be held online on January 7
- A face to face meeting will be held at the ring as soon as possible after the AGM.

NEXT MEETING: AGM 7:00 pm, Monthly meeting 7:30pm, Thursday January 7, 20210