

**FIRA Executive Board Meeting
Minutes**

March 23, 2018

Attendance:

President: Dave Wilson
Vice President: Dave Chevrefils
Past President: Glen Smith
Treasurer: Keith Clarkson
Secretary: Carrie DiFrancesco
Member at Large: Wayne McKenzie
Member at Large: Dianne Chevrefils

Dave Wilson called the meeting to order.

Treasurer Report: \$7,060 current balance with \$7,500 & \$10,800 in GIC's.

Grant Application Update: Unfortunately, we did not get the grant. Apparently, only 20% of the applicants were awarded one. There are plans to try for another one. Do we wait for possible grant or try to do some of the work ourselves? Like the entranceway?

FIRA ideas: The executive board received an email from a member who inquired about various FIRA considerations and the discussion is summarized below:

- ~ It seems there are more women activities taking place at FIRA than men. Any particular member who would like to start up an activity can initiate.
- ~ Would members like to see a satellite dish at FIRA hall? Dave is going to inquire about cost and interest. Internet could be a benefit but as with many of our homes/cottages, it probably wouldn't work well.
- ~ Would members be interested in having horseshoe games at the hall? There is a horseshoe pit already and it will be checked if it still usable this spring. Rhubarb has been planted in the back.
- ~ Some folks assume FIRA's annual meeting is in February but it is held in September (on the 16th this year). Our every other month meetings are general meetings. The annual meeting is in the fall as many people aren't around in winter. Often, a lot of time isn't spent on particular subjects as the meetings are also social so we try and keep business to minimum in attempt to keep folks coming. Therefore, when addressing some more detailed concerns they are sometimes spread out. A member can always call someone on executive board for more details.
- ~ As listed in the FIRA bylaws, up to \$250 in expenditures can be approved by the executive board. Any amount above that, the general membership has to vote.
- ~ For our propane pricing benefit, in August a list of all paid members was given to Laurie Hillaby. She found out who used which propane company and negotiated a price with both. Brian Watts was original negotiator.

~ For the propane discount, it is not based on individual use but based on collective use. To collect and analyze individual data is more work than the volunteers on this board are willing to do at this point.

~ Has everyone paid this year's dues? In order to receive the propane discount, your dues must be paid to be on the lists. We would like to send out more reminders for dues in January of every year. Those members who are away, please send a note with intent to join late and/ or send in from wherever you are. We need people to pay by end of June for propane cut off.

~ Should FIRA membership rate be cheaper for a couple vs a single membership? This will be discussed again at a later date.

~ For those who don't know, we do have a new working lock on the hall's door. We give the combination out as needed.

~ Financial reports are given at every meeting. The treasurer can be phoned with concerns or questions.

~ We do not do online dues payments as it is too difficult with the changing treasurers so we are sticking with writing a check. Checks can be mailed or left at the hall.

~ We are brushing up on new member orientation. We do have a membership form that can be found on our website. Looking to develop a one page form highlighting member benefits and events.

~ Everyone currently contracts for their own snow plowing services. Not sure if there is a benefit in looking into possibility of a member savings with the various contractors available. If anyone would like to investigate this, please feel free to explore the options. That is how our savings for propane and septic began with a volunteer member.

Other Discussion:

With regards to the September 16th AGM - we decided the meeting portion would begin at 4pm. Discussion ensued about how to attract more members to the meeting. One benefit is that all attendees will be put into a drawing to win a 2019 membership.

Dave Wilson has concerns about the recycle bin behind the garbage can in the hall's kitchen. We need to separate more of the recycles as it is a messy job for the person taking it all to the dump. Dave will get another blue box to keep in the closet.

The website has been updated with the current board's names and phone numbers.

Our annual meat sale is on!

We'd like to develop a FIRA logo and are looking into having a contest so if anyone has any great vision, start developing your idea!

We would also like to sell FIRA t-shirts, sweatshirts, fleece and such bearing our new logos. Dianne C. will call John Skinner to find out how we ordered in past.

Something new for our monthly potlucks: Members are encouraged to bring a can of food to donate to the food bank. Also, a 50/50 will be offered so bring some cash if you would like to participate. The other half goes to charity at the end of the year.

REMINDER: The Silent Auction is April 15th. Get your special give-a-way ready!!

We have a Summer Fest coordinator. Thank you, Dianne Chevrefils!!!

Wayne McKenzie will be keeping track of the use of FIRA Hall so please contact him if you would like to book the use of the hall.

We are looking into who checks the hall's fire extinguishers and their locations should be announced.

Wayne McKenzie will volunteer for maintenance next year unless anyone else would like the job or assist him.

The floor transition strip between foyer and main room needs to be fixed.

REMINDER: We still need volunteers to set up for pot lucks - there are a few spaces left.

REMINDER: The months there is a general meeting attached to the pot luck, the meeting begins at 4:30 (with the exception of the 4pm start time at September's AGM). If it is a pot luck only month, we begin at 5:30.

Mark your calendars: The **Summer Fest** is July long weekend: Saturday, June 30th.

Pancake Breakfast is Saturday, August 18th.

The Pig Roast is September 22nd.

REMINDER: There is a lot of information on our website, including executive phone numbers, pictures, Bylaws.... firahall.ca

Keith Clarkson motioned to adjourn and Dave Chevrefils seconded.